

HOME NEWS

SNP's latest election victory will worry Labour and the Tories

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

The extraordinary results in two local by-elections on each side of central Scotland, one of which produced a 39 per cent swing to the Scottish National Party in a traditionally Labour area, were being anxiously considered by the Labour and Conservative parties yesterday.

The Scottish National Party was jubilant about the results of the Bo'ness and Bishopbriggs regional by-elections, but were realistic enough not to expect such a landslide trend to be reflected in a parliamentary election. "If it was, we should win virtually every Scottish seat," a party spokesman said.

The Labour Party in Scotland is clearly relieved that almost four years may separate the present surge in nationalist popularity from a general election, and intends to press ahead with a publicity campaign based on the devolution White Paper early in the new year.

Mr Thomas Fulton, chairman of the party in Scotland, said the two results were not a condemnation of the Government's devolution proposals. "I think they show the continuing dissatisfaction with the performance of the Government on the whole economic front. It is inflation, unemployment, higher rates and cuts in public spending that people are complaining about, not the proposals on devolution," he said.

The overwhelming majority of Scots wanted more control over their affairs vested in Scotland, but they emphatically did not want to see the break-up of the United Kingdom. The Labour Party's campaign would starkly emphasize the difference between devolution and separatism.

Other party members are less convinced that the party is following the right policy on devolution. Mr James Sillars (MP for Argyll, South) said: "With a similar trend in both the east and west of Scotland, one must conclude that other than purely local factors were

involved. The policy-makers in both major parties should be very anxious about these trends."

Mr Sillars, who advocates a Scottish assembly with strong direct power over the economy, did not believe the party leader, James Callaghan, would respond generously to the clear demands that the by-elections reflected. "We keep on passing points of no return when what was on offer yesterday was a parliamentary election," he said. "Unless there is a generous response from Westminster, I am afraid it will make no difference. These results will be misjudged or correctly judged too late."

The Conservative Party in Scotland was disappointed by the results, particularly in Bishopbriggs, where there was a Conservative trend. Mr Michael Ancram, vice-chairman of the party, said: "We have been affected by the overall Scottish backlash to Labour's devolution proposals. It only serves to underline the importance of our getting across more effectively the constructive proposals we have to deal with Scotland's problems."

The Bo'ness and Bishopbriggs elections follow another recent SNP local win in Stirling and Baines, near Edinburgh, when there was a 22 per cent swing to the nationalists.

The SNP commented yesterday: "This must be very bad news for both Labour and Tories. The swing was an avalanche in Bo'ness at 39 per cent, and we calculate that in Bishopbriggs it was 29 per cent."

The results give the SNP 11 seats on the Central Regional Council to 15 Labour and four Independents, and five seats on the heavily Labour-dominated Strathclyde Regional Council.

The SNP controls Cumberland and Kilgerran District Council and is the biggest single group in East Kilbride. It controls Clackmannan district and has substantial representation on West Lothian, Clydebank and Strathkelvin district councils.

Start of an opposition in the Manx parliament

From John Chartres
Douglas, IOM

The victory by a Manx Labour Party candidate in a by-election here for a seat in the 24-member House of Keys is likely to cast a new light on the island's political scene, particularly with a general election due in a year.

Historically the Manx House of Keys, claimed to be the oldest elected assembly of its kind in the world, has consisted largely of independent members without party labels. In the by-election for one of the three seats in the Rushan constituency (an ancient Norse word meaning constituency) Mr Edward Lowey, a factory worker, had a majority of 403 over his independent opponent Mr Edward Gawne, a chartered surveyor, regarded as a typical representative of the Manx "establishment".

Mr Lowey will now join three other Labour Party members of the House of Keys and they could form the first organized opposition group in the ancient parliament. Another member of the Manx Labour Party, Mr Jack Nivison, the president, sits on the Legislative Council (Upper House). Another member of the Keys, Mr John Bell, describes himself as an Independent Labour.

Mr Lowey was supported by the small but occasionally vociferous Manx nationalist organization, the underground movement called Fa Hailloo issued one of its clandestine broadsheets shortly before polling day, urged its supporters to vote for him. The by-election, unlike most political contests in the island, which are usually between one personality and another, was fought on a straightforward right and left basis.

Mr Gawne emphasized the benefits brought to the island by the present government's policy of encouraging outside investment and new residents through its low income tax structure. Mr Lowey has pointed to the disadvantages that such policies have brought to young, fairly impecunious, native-born Manx men and women, who, he says, cannot compete with the "invaders" when it comes to buying houses or land in an inflationary market.

His case, he believes, was strengthened by rising unemployment figures, which he says are an indication that the local prosperity bubble is bursting. There are now 800 unemployed out of a total resident population of about 60,000. The threat of a thousand unemployed in the Isle of Man is regarded in the same light as a million unemployed on the mainland of Britain.

Sometimes their need is for social support or education, sometimes for medical help. Some may be psychiatrically ill, some mentally abnormal. They may go to prison or be put on probation.

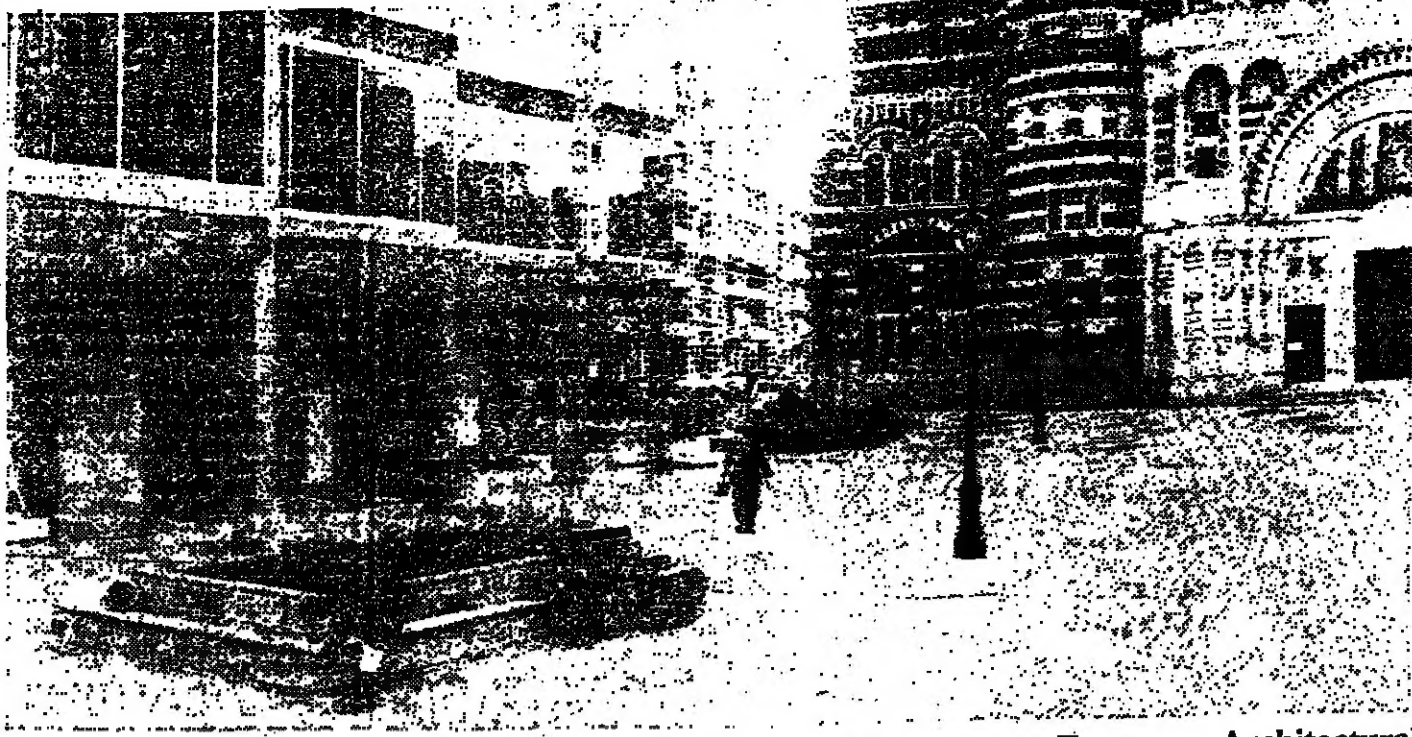
The number becoming "lost" has increased recently. The reasons include diminution of the asylum function of the pre-1959 mental hospital; the paucity of social support for those discharged from mental hospitals; the reduction in the number of official reception centres; and the near disappearance of the respectable but cheap, common lodging houses.

While better education services, social support, and cheap, clean, overnight lodgings in every town would help, many thousands would still need other aid, it says.

The report calls for coordinating teams in each area drawn from housing, employment, and social service departments, the probation service and medical and psychological experts.

Offenders are now assessed on remand in prison and on bail. Improved facilities for assessment should be developed in addition to those in prison. An adult care unit should link facilities for assessment, accommodation, treatment and support.

Loss of services for mental abnormal offenders. (King's Fund Centre Mental Handicap Paper No. 7, 45p).



Westminster Cathedral piazza, Westminster's main contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year, which opens on Tuesday. It gives a view of the cathedral hidden for 70 years.

New care order for 'inadequates' urged

By Our Home Affairs
Correspondent

A new adult care order should be available to courts, a report presented to a conference on mental handicap yesterday recommends. It would be an additional measure for inadequate people who come before courts because of persistent antisocial behaviour rather than through the mental abnormality they suffer.

The report by a working party sponsored by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London and chaired by Mr Christopher Mayhew, quotes one estimate that at least half those in prison are inadequates of that kind.

Calling them "lost souls" the report says their antisocial behaviour shows up in different places: prisons, barracks, hospitals and lodging houses, in different ways at different times. Many live on the open streets or in derelict houses in cities.

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108 schools prefer independence

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

At least 108 of the 173 direct grant grammar schools in England and Wales have decided to go independent rather than cooperate in comprehensive schemes. A first list put out yesterday by the Direct Grant Joint Committee names 51 girls' schools and 56 boys' schools.

The list was based on replies to a questionnaire sent by the committee to all the schools. It included replies from 100 non-Roman Catholic schools.

There are 54 Roman Catholic direct grant grammar schools. All but one or two of these are expected to sign a declaration of intent for the Government that they intend to become maintained comprehensive schools and to stop selecting pupils by ability.

Mr James Cobban, chairman of the committee, said the number of schools choosing independence was now certain to be more than 110. The committee was waiting for replies from nine or ten schools, most of which were unlikely to sign the declaration. Only two or three non-Catholic schools are known to be about to sign the declaration.

Mr William McDonald, secretary of the Scottish Council for Grammar Schools, said most of the 25 grammar schools in Scotland would go independent. They are attended by 23,000 pupils.

Mr Edward Roberts, secretary of the board of management of Methodist Residential

Schools, said that all seven Methodist direct grant schools had decided to go independent. Their plea to remain as grant-aided schools because they provided much needed boarding education had been rejected by Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mr Cobban said fees at the schools that chose independence would increase by at least £100 a year. The direct grant schools, on average, were charging fees of about £450. Next September the average would be not less than £600.

Lady Johnston, chairman of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, which runs 22 schools, said fees at the trust's London schools were £480 a year. Those outside London charged £435. Next September, they would be charging at least £600 a year.

Many direct grant schools are likely to increase fees by an additional 5 per cent so that they can continue to give scholarships to children from poor families.

The number of direct grant schools choosing independence is higher than the initial estimates of between 75 and 100. Mr Cobban said: "We are not saying 'hooray'. We are saying 'hooray'."

"Most of our schools are too small and could only fit as small cogs in a catch-up comprehensive system. Others were not wanted by their local

Bomb expert was killed by persons unknown

Captain Roger Coad, an explosives expert, died when he tried to protect the bomb in a shopping centre in Kensington Church Square, London, on August 29.

The jury at Westminster Coroner's Court returned a verdict that Captain Coad, a former army expert, was murdered by a person or persons unknown.

Chief Supt James Collis, the police tried to clear the area but that was an impossible task because of confusion and the danger of entering the street.

He said Captain Coad walked into the shop door. There was an explosion and he was thrown out.

Inaction over devolution 'a recipe for disaster'

By Martin Huckerby
Political Staff

Labour MPs who support the Government's devolution plans yesterday pleaded with their colleagues not to oppose the White Paper lest the nationalist parties should benefit.

During the second session of the Parliamentary Labour Party's meeting on devolution, Mr Ashton (Bassetlaw) said that if they went back on devolution "the Scottish National Party would sweep the board".

Mr Buchanan (Renfrew, West) said: "The position is fraught with danger. But the greatest danger would be not to go ahead with devolution."

Mr Cledwyn Hughes, chairman of the parliamentary party, reported that Mr Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, had also told the meeting: "The status quo is not an option. The status quo is a recipe for political disaster."

However, many of the 70 MPs at the meeting remained unhappy about the proposals. Mr George Cunningham (Idington, South and Finsbury) complained that the White Paper was unstable. "No government should take a stand halfway down a slippery slope," he said. "We need a

devout pilot to get us through these rapids."

Mr Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty), thought it would be tragic if devolution built a barrier between Scotland, Wales and England. Apart from some paranoid nationalists, he said, England, Scotland and Wales had never voted on a racialist basis, and he thought devolution would be a retrograde step.

"We must not take our decision in a flood of fears of nationalism," he said. "Let us rather do it by planning 20 and 30 years ahead." He called for a referendum on the final devolution proposals.

However, Mr Sillars (Argyll, South) was critical of the White Paper for not going far enough. He thought it was "renewing the Labour Party's commitment to the Scottish people".

After the meeting Mr Cledwyn Hughes said that many more members had wanted to speak and that a further debate might be held fairly soon, after Mr Short, the Lord President of the Council and the Leader of the House of Commons, had returned from abroad.

Lord Forchester, page 14

£1,000 classical music award

A £1,000 travel scholarship is to be given by EMI to a young British classical musician next year.

Professional string players are eligible and auditions take place in March and April. The award is part of a scheme started last year by the Royal Society of Arts.

School shell warning

Police officers at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, yesterday warned local schools after children had taken home corroded wartime shells found near a former RAF station.

Firearm expert sues Yard over deafness

Mr John McCafferty, aged 60, a former detective superintendent and firearm expert who helped to bring many gunmen and other criminals, including the Kray twins, to justice, is suing the Metropolitan Police for damages.

Mr McCafferty, known as Mr Murder, contends that the years of work he put in testing firearms for the police has left him partly deaf. The Receiver of the Metropolitan Police denies negligence.

Mr Richard Rougier, QC, his counsel, told Mr Justice Crichton in the High Court yesterday that in the course of testing weapons, Mr McCafferty fired thousands of rounds in an enclosed laboratory. Once he fired two thousand shots in a day.

November, 1973, Mr McCafferty was compulsorily retired, due to his deteriorating hearing, from his civil post as senior experimental officer with responsibility for the forensic aspects of crimes involving firearms.

The premises where Mr McCafferty tested guns were totally unsuitable, Mr Rougier said. The were not sound-proofed in any way, despite Mr



Mr McCafferty: In an enclosed laboratory.

McCafferty's requests to his employers. At one stage Mr McCafferty was putting cotton wool in his ears, a totally inadequate measure.

Mr McCafferty joined the force in 1954 and made a speciality of firearms. He gave evidence in many of the more sensational trials connected with guns, said Mr Rougier.

The hearing continues today.

Repeats of drink-and-drive offences rising, report says

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

The proportion of motorists convicted a second time for drink-and-drive offences has doubled in the past five years, and nearly one offender in every 20 coming before magistrates has been convicted of the same offence at least once before.

A report published today by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation predicts that the proportion will continue to rise because the number of motorists already convicted is still increasing and so is the tendency to repeat the offence.

But the picture varies from area to area. The report found that in a fifth of the 47 police areas analysed the incidence of repeated offences among those already convicted fell by a third after the introduction of the breath test, and remained low.

In another fifth of the areas the incidence rose by three quarters, and the deterioration in England and Wales as a whole was attributable to those nine districts.

The "good" areas were: Durham, Leeds, Liverpool and Bootle, West Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, West Mercia, Gwent, South Wales and Herefordshire. The "bad" areas were: Northumberland, Birmingham, Manchester and Salford, Teesside, Lincolnshire, Dyfed-Powis, Bristol, Surrey and Sussex.

The reason suggested for the difference is that it is generally more difficult to get to and from work without a car in the "good" police areas than in the "bad" ones. Thus the penalty of disqualification hits harder and is a greater deterrent.

The foundation says the rise in the rate of recidivism means that the penalties for driving while drunk are becoming discouraging. That was disturbing because of the danger the drunken motorist represents to other citizens. More people were killed by drunken drivers than by all other forms of violent assault put together.

The report calls for further study and suggests that the next step is to find out more about the differences between motorists who repeat the offence after disqualification and those who do not.

Many 'cannot cope with sick relatives'

Thousands of people in Britain lead almost unbearable lives because they cannot cope with the difficulties of looking after sick relatives in need of constant care at home, a Red Cross survey published yesterday says.

Difficulties faced by people looking after their sick or disabled relatives at home seem to be getting worse, it says.

According to the survey taken among its own branches, the difficulties of people without the basic nursing skills to cope are frightening of doing something wrong, many people with elderly, sick or handicapped relatives tied to the house; there is lack of knowledge of the local services available from statutory and voluntary organisations; most husbands do not know how to manage if their wives are or need nursing after childbirth; and community nurses are under considerable pressure and cannot spend as long as each family as they would like.

The report says that in parts of the country, people undergo minor surgery and are discharged on the same day in need of nursing care.

As a result of the survey, Red Cross is planning to expand its services to those looking after relatives at home.

European Industry - The Years Ahead

On Wednesday, December 17th, The Times will be publishing a major report, which will be taking a broad look at the future of industry in western Europe and at its sources of finance.

Don't neglect this opportunity to promote your company and its concerns in the Report. For further information about advertisement data, a synopsis of the proposed editorial content and details of The Times 14 million influential readers in the U.K., Europe and throughout the world telephone the European Advertisement Manager on 01-837 1234, extension 7497 or 6205, before December 10th.



Council criticized for attitude to heritage

From Trevor Fishlock
Merthyr Tydfil

Criticism of Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council was voiced when an inquiry opened yesterday into a plan by the council to demolish 77 Victorian-era cottages which are laid out in a unique triangular form.

The inquiry is being held at a time when there is growing criticism of the council's attitude to Merthyr's heritage. A civic society has been formed to increase awareness of the town's history and its role in the growth of the steel industry, which is known locally as the Triangle.

As a teaming iron and coal centre in the last century, Merthyr was at one of the largest towns in Wales and

at the heart of the industrial revolution. But it was also scarred by poverty and unemployment, and suffered appalling conditions in the depression of the 1930s.

Some councillors believe that reminders of Merthyr's unhappy past of working-class exploitation should be cleared. With a large Hoover factory in the town, Merthyr has found a new stability and image, and some councillors think developments should reflect that.

According to Mr Idris Williams, the council's chief technical officer: "The Triangle presents a picture of complete physical deprivation and decay, with poor lighting and sanitation. It would be too costly to restore the cottages."

Objectors said at the inquiry that it was the council's fault that so many of the cottages

Nuclear flask contaminated

A 70-ton nuclear flask was contaminated when it arrived in England from Japan, British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday.

Mr John Donaghy, the company's safety and assessment officer, said the radiation risk was low. He believed the case to be the only one in the ten years since the trade began.

Jail for arsonist with grudge against school

Keith William Smith, aged 19, was disappointed with his examination results and bore a grudge against his former school, Yarborough High School, Lincoln, it was stated at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday.

After carrying out a series of burglaries at the school he set it on fire, causing £636,000 damage, it was stated.

Mr William Joss, for the prosecution, said: "Smith seems to have an obsession about his former school." One of his previous convictions was for burglary at the school.

Mr Smith, of Otter Circle Drive, Lincoln, admitted arson at the school on September 5, and was jailed for six years.

£75,000 appeal opens

The Victoria and Albert Museum yesterday launched a £75,000 appeal to buy the Donatello relief of the Virgin and Child, for which the Treasury has refused a special grant.

Correction

Mr Ralph Harris, Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs, points out that his initiative in establishing the Ross McWhirter Foundation was not as a clearing house and family friend, not in his capacity as director of the Institute.

Bombing in Britain warns WEU of the need of arms standardization

Capitain Richard Wies, an explosives expert, told the Western European Union today that the continuing threat of terrorism in Europe is a luxury we can no longer afford. He said the pressing need to standardize arms and equipment in view of the increasing threat of terrorism is a luxury we can no longer afford. He said the pressing need to standardize arms and equipment in view of the increasing threat of terrorism is a luxury we can no longer afford.

who claimed that the maintenance of domestic defence industries must always have precedence. "We must speak frankly with our electorates."

He emphasized British support for last month's proposal by the European defence ministers for setting up a new forum, independent of any direct links with Nato and designed above all to involve France in the renewed effort for European arms standardization.

Questioned by Mr. John Roper, Labour MP for Farnworth, about reports that France had given a guarded positive response to the idea, Mr. Rogers said merely that French cooperation would represent "a large step forward".

Herr Karl Mörse, the West German Deputy Defence Minister, who addressed the WEU yesterday, had indicated his country's willingness to consider the new forum, if it would bring the French in.



An armed policeman in plain clothes waits outside a Paris bank in which gangsters are holding hostages.

Wiesenthal suit withdrawn

Vienna, Dec. 3.—Dr. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Centre in Vienna, withdrew today his slander suit against Dr. Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor. "Now that Wiesenthal has withdrawn his suit the case is closed," Dr. Kreisky said.

French press wonders if EEC can afford Britain as a partner

Wounds left by Mr Wilson's wily tactics in Rome will take some time to heal

From Michael Hornsby

Rome, Dec. 3
The main gain from the meeting of EEC heads of government here, which after a painful struggle managed to hammer out an eleven-hour solution satisfactory to Mr Wilson, is that the 27-nation conference of consumers and producers of energy can now begin in Paris as scheduled on December 16.

Some details still remain to be settled about who will fill five of the eight seats allocated to the industrialized world, but the other three will now definitely be occupied by the United States, Japan and the European Community.

If the summit meeting had not succeeded yesterday in finding an answer to British demands for a separate seat, the Paris conference would almost certainly have had to be postponed. As Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, remarked, "this would have soured the atmosphere within the Community for months to come."

The principle of collective representation for the EEC at Paris has been previously preserved by means of the curious device of allowing a British minister to be called on by the Community spokesman to present his Government's views on matters of special interest to it as an oil producer.

For Mr Wilson, the assurance of this "ministerial voice" in Paris apparently made the months-long wrangle over the issue of representation all worth while. Most of his European colleagues, however, felt that he was striking empty nationalist postures for a domestic audience, rather than securing any

real advantages for Britain.

The fact is that the Paris conference itself is likely to be much more concerned with procedure than with substance, and the real work will be done over the months ahead in the special commissions to be set up at the conference. If Britain had been prepared to settle for a "parade" twice in these commissions, the dispute could probably have been ended long ago.

The other main gain for Britain, as Mr Wilson saw it, was the general endorsement by heads of government of the need to look at the question of minimum prices for oil and other sources of energy. Herr Schmidt, he pointed out, had even said he was ready to accept a floor price of \$7 (£3.40) a barrel for oil.

Other delegations dispute that there was anything like general acceptance for the principle of floor prices. It does appear, however, that the EEC mandate for the Paris conference will be couched in sufficiently general terms to allow Britain to elaborate its views on floor prices without running counter to the EEC position.

The way in which Mr Wilson, and more particularly Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, pursued the dispute has left wounds which may take time to heal. Mr Wilson's continual reputation for wiliness can only have been reinforced by his blunt claim last night that the demand for a separate seat had been all along only a negotiating tactic designed to wring the maximum concessions from the rest of the EEC.

Charles Hargrove writes from Paris: President Giscard d'Estaing told the Cabinet today that the

agreement reached in Rome on

Britain's representation at the forthcoming energy conference had demonstrated the value of the European Council in smoothing out major Community difficulties.

Any body other than the European Council would have been incapable of achieving a single representation of the Community in the face of the (British) claim to separate representation", he said. "The European Council has demonstrated its usefulness in progress which must be pursued with obstinacy and determination towards the union of Europe."

Satisfaction at the removal of the threat which Britain's "go it alone" attitude involved for the Community is sharply tempered, however, in almost all press comment by the fear that Britain is bound to be a permanent drag on future progress.

The European Council was entirely dominated by British blackmail, to the extent that even the warmest supporters of London have come to ask themselves whether they were really right to hitch this odd insular country to the continent."

Le Progrès de Lyons remarks: "In the European express, which is not going too fast as it is, Mr Harold Wilson looks almost like a passenger without luggage. He has taken the train on the move, as though he might well leave his travelling companions to resume his solitary way."

Sud-Ouest says: "The British

Lisbon takes control of radio and television

From Michael Knipe

Lisbon, Dec. 3
The Portuguese Government announced today that it would take control of all broadcasting except Radio Renascença, the Roman Catholic station.

The statement said radio and television were being reorganised to ensure their "ideological pluralism". The immediate effect will be to deprive the left of its control of the Lisbon-based news media, demonstrated during last week's uprising by the refusal of Radio Clube Português, the commercial station, to broadcast the President's communique. Loyalist forces closed down the Lisbon transmitters and programmes were beamed from Oporto, where more conservative broadcasters were in control.

Five government-owned newspapers which were also controlled by left-wing elements are already suspended from publishing while staff changes are being completed.

The statement said that Radio Renascença, whose Lisbon studios were seized by leftists in May, would not be affected because of agreements reached in 1940 between the Salazar Government and the Vatican. The studios are expected to be handed back to the church authorities.

Troops brought into Lisbon when last week's left-wing military revolt was crushed are now returning to their bases. Meanwhile during military searches for illegal weapons a number of foreigners living with left-wing agricultural cooperatives have been detained.

Lisbon, Dec. 3.—Diplomatic sources said they had reports of up to 15 foreigners having been detained at an agricultural commune outside Lisbon.

Alimony claim led to dental fraud charge

Our Own Correspondent

Dec. 3
Twenty teeth are on edge in Sicily, after the opening of an inquiry into the practices of certain local dentists.

They are accused of extracting paper at least the tooth 22 times, filling already taken out, pulling 26 teeth from the same mouth and other practices netting for a gap of 3,000 (£2,140,000) in the case of a health insurance

officials of the health insurance fund which deals with the medical expenses of public officials.

The alleged fraud consisted in highly exaggerated assertions by the dentists of the amount of work they were doing for members of the fund. Their statements of dentistry carried out were then approved by officials of the fund who, it is alleged, took a share of the unearned payments which they were

After the arrest of the first dentist, Sebastiano Musumeci Carbone, a month ago, the archives of the fund were mysteriously set on fire and the ensuing damage has to some extent limited the inquiry, but officials state that they have

sufficient evidence to proceed against the men already charged and the case may still be enlarged to include as many as 40 others.

The inquiry sprang from the alimony claim of the arrested dentist's former wife. In exchange for agreeing to their separation, she became a divorcee, she asked for a much larger alimony payment, saying, apparently, that he could afford to pay her 2m lire a month (£1,400), given that he earned "about 200m lire a month from the fund of the public officials alone".

The court ordered him to pay half of what the wife asked for, but at the same time a discreet inquiry was opened into the fund's affairs.

Budget being pruned again

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Dec. 3

Backed by a summit exhortation to economise on future Community spending, EEC ministers tonight began to prune the 1976 draft Budget for the second time this year.

The latest draft, amounting to about 7,920 million units of account (about £3,300m), which emerged from the European Parliament last month, was expected to be trimmed by some £150m to within about £40m of the £3,110m originally adopted by the ministers.

After today's second reading by the ministers, the draft will go back to the European Parliament in a fortnight's time for final adoption.

Tonight's deliberations focused on the Social Fund, research projects and aid for developing countries.

The British, represented by Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, were hoping that much of the £40m likely to remain of the parliament suggested increases will be used to finance research and aid Commonwealth developing countries. The Italians and Irish wanted any extra funds to be allocated to the Social Fund.

Both the West Germans and the British, whose heads of government were most active at the Rome summit in calling for improved budgetary controls, were particularly cost-conscious.

Coat of arms for Britain's EEC passport

From David Cross

Brussels, Dec. 3

The European passport which will be introduced gradually from the beginning of 1978 to replace the variety of national passports now in use will be burgundy red in colour and will probably have a soft cover.

The present uniform document was given the formal seal of approval by heads of Government of the Nine at their summit meeting in Rome yesterday. Its colour and cover will not be the only changes for the holder of the present dark blue, hardback British passport. In a concession to its partners, the British Government is expected to agree that the cover should feature the title "European Community" above the country's name, rather than below as the British and Danes had wanted originally. Thus, in the case of Britain, the title would read "European Community, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland".

In other respects, the European passport will not be greatly different from the present British version. The British coat of arms will still be displayed prominently on the cover, references to "Her Britannic Majesty" inside will probably remain untouched, and the document will still be 32 pages long.

This retention of traditional characteristics, which will also be reflected in the European passports of other member states, is possible because the

document will remain essentially a national document. It will, for example, still be issued by member states to their own nationals because of the practical and political difficulties of persuading the Nine to delegate this responsibility to a central Community issuing office in the near future.

Some other technical aspects of the passport still have to be worked out by the experts. The trickiest is likely to be the problem of which language or languages to use for most of the contents. Most member states are in favour of using a maximum of two languages—their own, plus either French or English. However, the West Germans are pressing for all six Community languages

ADVERTISEMENT

IRAQI JEWS

INVITED TO RETURN HOME TO IRAQ

The Revolution Command Council (RCC) in Iraq has adopted a resolution which entitles all Iraqi Jews who left Iraq since 1948 to return home to Iraq and enjoy equal rights with all Iraqi citizens. The resolution also stipulates that the Iraqi Government shall guarantee to the returning Jews full constitutional rights and a secure life free from any sort of discrimination.

This decision by the RCC stems from the adherence, by the

Iraqi Government, to the principles of Human Rights, the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It is a fact of history that Jews lived among the Arabs in harmony, throughout the ages. History abounds with examples of Arab-Jewish co-operation which flourished in a prevailing atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

THE RESOLUTION, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKR IN HIS CAPACITY AS RCC CHAIRMAN, READS AS FOLLOWS:
"PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PARA. A ARTICLE 42 OF THE INTERIM CONSTITUTION, IN KEEPING WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND BY VIRTUE OF IRAQ'S ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR IN THE UN CHARTER AND THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:

- THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL, IN ITS MEETING OF 26 NOVEMBER 1975, ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:
1. IRAQI JEWS WHO LEFT IRAQ SINCE 1948 ARE HEREBY ENTITLED TO RETURN HOME.
 2. ALL IRAQI JEWS RETURNING TO IRAQ UNDER THIS RESOLUTION SHALL ENJOY ALL LAWFUL RIGHTS OF IRAQI CITIZENS UNDER LAW.
 3. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT SHALL GUARANTEE TO THE RETURNING JEWS FULL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ENJOYED BY IRAQI CITIZENS. THIS WILL INCLUDE EQUALITY AND A SECURE LIFE FREE FROM ANY SORT OF DISCRIMINATION.
 4. THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE AND SHALL BE ENFORCED BY THE MINISTERS CONCERNED."

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

هكذا في الأصل

Year	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
High	10.4	11.2	12.0	12.8	13.6	14.4	15.2	16.0	16.8	17.6	18.4	19.2	20.0	20.8	21.6	22.4	23.2	24.0	24.8	25.6	26.4	27.2	28.0	28.8	29.6	30.4	31.2	32.0	32.8	33.6	34.4	35.2	36.0	36.8	37.6	38.4	39.2	40.0	40.8	41.6	42.4	43.2	44.0	44.8	45.6	46.4	47.2	48.0	48.8	49.6	50.4	51.2	52.0	52.8	53.6	54.4	55.2	56.0	56.8	57.6	58.4	59.2	60.0	60.8	61.6	62.4	63.2	64.0	64.8	65.6	66.4	67.2	68.0	68.8	69.6	70.4	71.2	72.0	72.8	73.6	74.4	75.2	76.0	76.8	77.6	78.4	79.2	80.0	80.8	81.6	82.4	83.2	84.0	84.8	85.6	86.4	87.2	88.0	88.8	89.6	90.4	91.2	92.0	92.8	93.6	94.4	95.2	96.0	96.8	97.6	98.4	99.2	100.0				
Low	10.4	11.2	12.0	12.8	13.6	14.4	15.2	16.0	16.8	17.6	18.4	19.2	20.0	20.8	21.6	22.4	23.2	24.0	24.8	25.6	26.4	27.2	28.0	28.8	29.6	30.4	31.2	32.0	32.8	33.6	34.4	35.2	36.0	36.8	37.6	38.4	39.2	40.0	40.8	41.6	42.4	43.2	44.0	44.8	45.6	46.4	47.2	48.0	48.8	49.6	50.4	51.2	52.0	52.8	53.6	54.4	55.2	56.0	56.8	57.6	58.4	59.2	60.0	60.8	61.6	62.4	63.2	64.0	64.8	65.6	66.4	67.2	68.0	68.8	69.6	70.4	71.2	72.0	72.8	73.6	74.4	75.2	76.0	76.8	77.6	78.4	79.2	80.0	80.8	81.6	82.4	83.2	84.0	84.8	85.6	86.4	87.2	88.0	88.8	89.6	90.4	91.2	92.0	92.8	93.6	94.4	95.2	96.0	96.8	97.6	98.4	99.2	100.0				

Band with ambition

This quartet reminds us (as did its immediate predecessor, less bubbly), not only for Australia but for the Asian countries nearer at hand and, to him, more stimulating than Europe.

Banks's Quartet is also a new movement, but of guided music leading to a slower denouement, freer in declamation and argument, more intellectual in construction, yes, but not in physical form. The quartet is a medium and topic. For Banks the string quartet means contrapuntal argument, as it did for the European masters of the medium, and composition as the art of transition and of harmony growing out of melodic thought.

The Banks Quartet is attractive for a second or third generation descendant of Bartók, and it will benefit, I guess, from repeated listening. Though influenced by Banks's concern with progressive jazz or electronic techniques, it is typical of his musical individuality nonetheless. It is when he freed himself from a forceful, unconstrained personal document, admirably imagined for a medium new to him—the concert performance—suggested the former, not the latter!

These are reprinted from *European*

The instruments are used subtly and economically to paint the descriptive background while the soprano either wanders dreamily in dances in agitation above the textures. So, spare high-pitched string writing evokes the snare-girt isolation of a winter night while the soprano conveys the emotions of the girl who waits in it for her lover. A series of jostling string fragments and percussive piano interjection suggest the kaleidoscopic scene in an eastern dance hall while the singer's line traces with the descending line of the dancer from the sad dignity of exultation to a fatigued aridity.

The cycle achieves a terse concentration, and is more lyrical and less angular than much of Dr Wynne's more recent writing. The curves begin to make over for the corners again, though the soprano line is nevertheless wide-spaced and not easy to negotiate.

Janet Price seemed troubled by this difficulty, as she showed it to have urgency of expression. The Cardiff University Ensemble similarly ploured all the textures skilfully as though fully alive to the descriptive role, so that *Night Music* took on an imagery that makes it one of Dr Wynne's

contemplative theme supplemented by a personal one, and

Gojko Mitic—a step to
East Germany

Improbable as it may seem, the best American Indian films of recent years have come from DEFA, the nationally-owned production firm of the German Democratic Republic. Now the BBC television has reported that the rights to a couple of the series may finally arrive in the wider English-speaking audience it has long deserved.

Yellow Wolf, of the Northern Perceé tribe, as quoted by D. Brown in his elegiac masterpiece *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, said, "The whites told only one side. I told it to please themselves. To me, much that is not true. Only the best deeds, only the worst deeds of the Indians, has the white man told."

Yellow Wolf meant, of course, printed for himself not only the Indians' land but also the very word "American". Those same white men's descendants cynically cranked out the romanticized versions of history which became a staple of American film, radio and television. The white men of Hollywood and at DEFA in East Berlin have, obviously, rather different crankings. In general, the true facts of American Indian history since the European invasion and despoliation fit squarely and perfectly into the Marxist-Leninist mould.

Red Cloud, of the Ogala-Teton Sioux, summed it up. "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one; they promised to take our land, and they took it." The daughter of the American Revolution might squander and blunder over the characterization of American frontiersmen, but she could not contradict it.

East German television has recently had the felicitous idea of reshooting several of DEFA's best films about the American West. The magnificent cinematography of the magnificent Shawnee leader, proved something of a small revelation even to a born Texan, and so did another film based on the life

Upstairs, downstairs
at Round House

By special arrangement with the International Centre of Theatre Research, the Royal Shakespeare Company is presenting, at the Round House in London and in English, Peter Brook's production of *The Ik*. It opens on January 15 for six weeks.

ART EXHIBITIONS

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VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM, SW7. 18th-19th century Indian photography. 28 Dec. to 10 Jan. 1976. Mon.-Fri. 10-5. Sat. 10-12.50. 499, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

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Why devolution must stop with Wales and Scotland

In view of the proposals for devolution for Scotland and Wales, should there be more devolution in England too? In his article in *The Times* on November 3, Sir Reginald Goodwin rightly rejected the idea of a regionally-elected body for the South-east including London. Indeed, it is difficult even to contemplate a region such as the South-east with a population of approximately 17 million, electing perhaps 200 or more people to represent them in a new regional assembly. Further, London would dominate the region; or, if London were divorced from the rest of a South-east regional authority, strategic planning would become a mockery.

The problems of London are substantially different from those in the rest of England. London therefore warrants special treatment. The problems of communication, for example, could justify all orbital and major highways within Greater London being the responsibility of central government. In this way, funds provided for the roads which are needed to take traffic out of London and improve the journey to work for those who live there. Such an arrangement would facilitate the expansion of industry in South-east London and in North Kent, and ensure that those areas enjoyed excellent communications with the Midlands.

But what about the rest of England? Local government in England has only recently been reorganized and the new authorities have been operating only since April 1, 1974. Parliament should leave the new authorities alone and let them get on with the jobs for which they were created. We should ask ourselves what people want from local government. This is the time to ask that question because one good thing has emerged from the state of affairs: the elections are beginning to look critical. At what local authorities are doing, why they are doing it and, in particular, at what cost. The apathy of the electorate, of which we used to complain, has been replaced by lively, sometimes, misinformed, criticism. I hope that this interest will remain long after we have solved the problem of inflation. To me, however, the message is clear. The electorate want a simple, effective and economical local government service run by people they know and can approach.

I echo the views expressed in the report of the Royal Commission "of the Commissioners, including Lord Kilbrandon himself. These commissioners said that the reorganization of local government outside London has left no room for directly elected regional authorities. Such authorities could not be endowed with the power and authority or enjoy the support of both electorate and local authorities that they would need if they were to play an effective part in government. To most people they would be remote and somewhat artificial bodies... the division of government between four levels—central, regional, county and district—would be little understood by many electors. It would probably be confusing even to those who were reasonably well-informed.

The size of the county and district areas of the new local authorities and their staffing levels has been criticized; how much worse would it be if a new tier of government were imposed on top of the present system?

One of the main objects of the recent reorganization of local government was to bring town and country together and to put an end to the territorial battles that had long been fought by the county boroughs and the shire counties. For the past 13 months, those of us working within the new framework of non-metropolitan counties and districts have been striving to cement new relationships and to break down old enmities. Much has already been done in Hampshire, the great cities of Portsmouth and Southampton and the other 11 districts are genuinely trying to integrate and to identify themselves with the new county as a whole. We have some way to go, but Hampshire is rapidly becoming an entity; and I am sure that the same thing is happening elsewhere in England.

Nothing would do more harm to this stage than discussions about reallooting functions or readjusting boundaries yet again. The fact that Scotland and Wales have been promised devolution in political manifestos provides no strong reason why England should be divided into regions.

The argument put forward by Sir Reginald Goodwin for transferring responsibility for water and sewerage to the major local authorities is superficially attractive, but I doubt whether it would produce greater efficiency or economy. The boundaries of the areas administered by water authorities are determined by catchment areas and not by local government boundaries. I think the newly created water authorities should be left to get on with the job but there are grounds for some reconsideration at a later date, if the health authorities functions, whose boundaries are mostly co-terminous with existing county boundaries.

In my view, most of the present counties are big enough to permit a strategic approach. Moreover, when there is a need for regional advice to central government, much more use could be made of such existing bodies as the regional economic development councils. These, composed of representatives of local authorities, academics, independent and representatives of both sides of industry.

Finally, any change, or talk of change, will, in my view, undermine the confidence of members and especially of the staff of local authorities and regional bodies, who are only just recovering from the recent reorganization. Central government will find that the new local authorities are perfectly capable of discharging their functions, provided they have the resources and they stand ready to fit into any national economic strategy.

Lord Porchester

The author is Chairman of the Hampshire County Council and of the South-east Economic Planning Council.

The old foe is the real threat on Mr Wilson's left

Ronald Butt

During the Labour Conference, a member of the Government (not a predictable member of the far right) made this observation on the state of his party, with particular reference to the National Executive Committee. "Of course, the real trouble isn't the Tories and the infiltrators; it's the Stalinist Old Guard."

Mr Wilson's extraordinary upraising of the national executive last week, has virtually confirmed that he himself ultimately accepts this analysis, though, of course, he would never admit it.

The Prime Minister usually likes to present the broad mass of Labour activists as solid, united and moderate, with only fringe groups of malign constituency infiltrators on the far left (the Tories) and an "anti-party" group, as he likes to call it, on the far right (the Social Democratic Alliance) causing trouble.

It is also Mr Wilson's technique, whenever he is faced with a dangerous enemy, to say that this enemy is of no account—until, with his own back within pissing distance of the truth, or something like it, he suddenly changes his mind. Should anyone else say that Labour is threatened by extremists, Mr Wilson says it is not—which is why he was so infuriated by the SDA's candid analysis on the eve of the party conference of the past performance of some prominent members of the Labour Party on fellow-travelling occasions.

Yet, in his own good time, and choosing his words and names carefully, so as not to offend irretrievably

by personal confrontation any member of the party with whom he has to rub along, he will himself say things sharper than most. During his last administration, there was his warning to Labour MPs that if they bit once too often they would lose their party dog-leashes. Now, after pretending ever since his conference that the trouble was only the constituency infestation of the Tories, and that the NEC was of so little account that it was barely worth mentioning, he has again come out with the truth.

Labour, he has said in effect, is in danger of breaking into two parties—the Party of Transport House and the Parliamentary Labour Party. (As though to confirm this, the Party of Transport House has since thrown out its liaison committee those two ancient stalwarts and pillars of the left, Mr Mikardo and Mr Allman.) Mr Wilson's precise words are worth noting. "There is", he said, "a growing disenchantment on the part of very many members of the PLP—and I am not talking about the extreme right—about what we do here (at the NEC) at our meetings... I do not like what is going on..."

Now that candidates can identify their affiliations on ballot papers, he said, "you could easily get a situation—a situation I would greatly regret—in which candidates were standing with the appellation Parliamentary Labour Candidate". In other words—Mr Wilson was saying that, at a pinch, members of the PLP might declare their independence of the

party machine by standing against the "official" caucus candidate—the candidate of Transport House. The result, in Mr Wilson's view, would be a PLP win in many seats with large majorities, in others a split vote giving victory to the Tories.

Imagine what Mr Wilson would have said if some press commentator had said it. But we have his own words and must examine their implications. It is hard to read them as other than a threat that the PLP come what may, will preserve its independence position as representatives of the electorate, and not be reduced to the rôle of delegates from the constituencies' Labour machine. Secondly, Mr Wilson has particularly emphasized because of the place where his rebuke was delivered—the point with which I began—namely, that Labour's real trouble is not with the Tories, outrageous though their methods may be, but with the old orthodox far left.

The truth is that if the NEC majority did not virtually protect them (if only by calculated inaction) the Tories would get nowhere. It will be a surprise to the left-dominated NEC that they could not have upheld Mr Prentice's appeal because all the proper procedures for unseating him locally had been gone through. But this is to misrepresent the scope of the NEC which is not simply a procedural but is a fully political body—and never more political than now.

It may be Mr Mikardo's doctrine that local parties can rely on the NEC never to reverse their decisions, provided the proper procedures have

been gone through. But this is not a position ever formally enacted in the Party Conference—and the NEC has great powers which it could use to expel any member of the party locally, to reverse local decisions as a matter of policy or even dissolve a local party which had been taken over by people whose political standing was considered inimical to Labour policies.

It has chosen to do none of these things, just as it has chosen not to act upon the report by the national agent, Mr Underhill, about Trotskyist activity in the Labour constituency. It is this virtual alliance between the left's Old Guard and the Tories which is now the dominant feature of Labour Party politics and the one which worries Mr Wilson.

The reality of this situation was revealed with great clarity at the party conference when nine left-wing members of the NEC instead of rallying to the Prime Minister after his attack on local party "infestation" issued a statement dissociating themselves from it.

This alliance is clearly a threat to the old Labour consensus. The old hard left, for years hiding its time and self-harnessed to the moderate Labour majority, now sees the facts of politics and economics as creating circumstances in which it at least had a chance of a breakthrough to make the Labour Party something very different from the Labour Party we have lived with since Attlee's day.

Mr Wilson's stand has been taken because he knows that, ultimately, his source of strength is the PLP, but

troubled by his concordat with the TUC's General Council. If the concordat with the TUC should break he will be resting solely on the PLP and he knows that, if Mr Prentice can be dissolved by local extremists, so can other ministers and moderate MPs. The politics of the left now are designed increasingly to ensure the future candidates are promoted who will change the nature of the PLP itself.

In the event of the sort of electoral battle between the two Labour elements which Mr Wilson envisages, electoral popularity would also, certainly be with the PLP as it stands. Yet, divorced from the power which Transport House carries, an independent Parliamentary Labour Party would quickly meet financial trouble.

No doubt it will not come to that. What Mr Wilson was implying, a what I have described as a possibility, is an intellectual construction, a last resort situation, and Mr Wilson's gambit in keeping the ship on the road will no doubt succeed, avoiding this ultimate logic.

Yet the struggle is a real one: the far left could, if resistance is inadequate, exact as their price for a maintained unity a shift of Labour Party several degrees in the direction. Seeing this, the moderate majority of the PLP is fighting back an independent body, better as more cohesively than ever before. Their fight, and Mr Wilson's war, establish once and for all that the attack from the left is a reality, not a figment of unsocially imaginations.

Uncomfortable, noisy, unstable, flimsy and petrol hungry...

Damning evidence that should drive invalid tricycles off the road

Early last month a dozen disabled drivers started in their little light blue tricycles down the M4 from Wales and Bristol to Westminster, there to present to Mr Morris, the Minister for the Disabled, a petition signed by 10,000 people and supported by letters from the representatives of 12,000 others. It urged the speedy replacement of these three-wheeled vehicles which are still being issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

This was one of the dearest causes of Graham Hill who died in a plane crash on Saturday. He first drove an invalid tricycle in 1970, after he had been temporarily crippled himself when he crashed in the United States Grand Prix. He described it as "like living through a moving cheese" and his wife, the campaign for providing something safer and better for disabled people. The drive to London, where Graham Hill met the convoy and joined the delegation, was in fact the first important national action of the new Invalid Tricycle Action Group of which he was both the leader and the financial sponsor. The day was less than a success.

One newly-serviced tricycle broke down with overheating problems at Hungerford and was left behind; but the others arrived at the end of a journey which had begun at six o'clock in the morning to keep their appointment in the early afternoon.

From St Stephen's entrance of the House of Commons the weary, noise-battered travellers wheeled themselves, limped, shuffled, and in one case crawled, to the lifts which took them up to a committee room. There they learned that the minister was away, attending the funeral of his election agent—a very close friend—in his constituency. The MP for Aberdare, Mr Ioan Evans, who had organized the lobby, explained that the appointment had been only provisional, and that misfortunes could happen to anybody.

Profoundly disappointed that there was no one except Mr

Evans to whom to present the petition, and no one from their department to answer their questions (Mr Morris has no deputy, and none other was given two, met several of their own MPs, and set off in the dark on the long journey home.

One tricycle which had been checked by approved repairers two days previously had to be left outside the House of Commons because of ignition failure. Another was taken in for repairs at a London garage. Two more, one with automatic transmission, another with a broken down and had to be abandoned in the dark on the motorway.

Of the seven tricycles from Wales, only two returned home in good running order and were back in Aberdare early the next morning. The other five were recovered and returned to their drivers more than a week later (one was in fact accidentally discovered sitting in an adjoining street, where it had been left without notice, and one was still missing three weeks later. For the convoy as a whole, this ratio of success was almost exactly matched by the 12 oldest veteran cars (manufactured between 1893 and 1898) which had attempted this year's run to Brighton two days before.

The Model 70, the current version of the invalid tricycle built largely of foreign parts, has been condemned as unsafe, unreliable, or unsuitable for its purpose by every single significant independent authority, official and unofficial, in the land.

Published reports include that of the Motor Industry Research Association, which found the tricycles liable to be blown off course by more than twice the recommended amount; that of the Cranfield Institute of Technology, whose technicians refused to complete some tests on safety grounds; the report by Motor magazine which called for the tricycles to be abolished; a report for the Department of the Environment carried out by the Transport and Road Research Labor-

atory which emphasized the comparative ease with which control could be lost; and an AA report which revealed the "appalling negligence" and "casual indifference" of some of those responsible for the tricycles' maintenance.

In a slightly different category, there have also been the Sharp Report on the Mobility Needs of the Physically Handicapped, which took the need for replacing the tricycle as too obvious for much comment; and the recent Ombudsman's report, which found ministerial statements and attitudes to have been variously "unwise", "evasive", and "less than frank".

Only the DESS with the support of the Department of the Environment holds out contrary views, insisting that black and white in the face of accident figures, produced by their own officials, of such crushing finality as to permit one would have thought, no further argument about the future of these nasty machines. Above all the latest figures demolish for good the official plea that a vehicle which is inherently unstable is not necessarily unsafe.

It is right to accept that the number of deaths suffered by tricycle drivers is still too small to be statistically reliable; but the other figures merit the closest examination. In the year ended last September, the three groups of vehicles issued to disabled people were of comparable size: that is, there were still 10,300 of the old manual-gearbox tricycles on the English roads, against 9,800 of the automatic Model 70s and 8,800 of the new three-wheeled, partly mini, Of the 237 which overturned or were blown over, only four were disabled cars. Of the 283 tricycles which turned over, 136 were the new automatic four-wheelers, 147 were described by Mr Morris as being "more stable" than his slower predecessor.

In deducing that the new tricycles blow, trip, are knocked, or otherwise turn over at exactly 46.5 times the rate of the four-wheelers, it should be additionally noted that their average annual

mileage is only half as much, so that the turnover rate per mile is actually twice as large. It is perhaps unnecessary to point out that overturning is not a good thing for disabled people, who find it hard enough to get out of a car under the best conditions.

Accidents took place to the Model 70 during the year at an extraordinary rate. Whereas just under 2,000—one in five of the adopted cars—were so unfortunate more than 3,100 Model 70 tricycles met accidents, mainly in collisions (against only half that number of older tricycles). In terms of mileage covered, though, all tricycles met accidents at two and a half times the rate of adapted cars; and so far as injuries went, mile for mile, tricycle drivers were being bruised, broken and lacerated at three times the rate of adapted cars. The ratio in favour of the Model 70 over the older type being two to one. In no case (for example, of collision with a car) did the Model 70 have a "single wheel" accident, the newest, most "improved" version of the tricycle not substantially outperforming the older ones, and enormously outperforming four-wheeled cars, in running into danger.

One may wonder at what statistics point those who build and issue the tricycles will be shocked into a change of mind. Mr Morris, who will not declare that they are safe, and since he assumed office has not been able to repeat that they are safe, now hands the hot potato firmly to the Department of the Environment which make up the safety rules, where the sophisticated gyrations of the Minister of Transport, Dr John Gummer, have become as amazing as his own.

"We cannot ignore the invalid tricycle's accident record," Dr Gilbert assured the RoSPA Road Safety Congress in October. And then, after observing that motorcyclists were even more at risk than invalid drivers were particularly vulnerable because of their disabilities, he returned compulsively to the old raft of departmental perversity: "The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment saw no case for banning

the invalid tricycle on safety grounds. That was the evidence we gave: it remains our view today."

Mr Morris meanwhile emphasizes that the way ahead is to concentrate resources in bringing mobility to the mass of the disabled—just to those who can drive themselves. Welcome as this may be, and great as Mr Morris's efforts have been in other fields of disablement, the thought is perfectly irrelevant while it remains government policy to supply free vehicles to certain categories of disabled persons. Nor can the DESS slough off its moral and possibly legal responsibility for putting invalids into vehicles which Mr Morris used to describe as "unsafe and unstable" simply because the "unsafe" part of the description is "too poor" to be used. The truth is that in respect of the tricycles Mr Morris's position is morally, logically and politically untenable; and that Dr Gilbert very little better.

Defence of this position by the DESS has taken many forms, from the economic to the emotional. Yet of the disabled drivers now driving tricycles, all but a minute proportion—and possibly literally every one—could be accommodated in adapted production cars of one sort or another, whose unit costs and costs of repairs and maintenance can be shown to be substantially below those of the tricycle (especially allowing for eventual resale). The DESS advances the view that one in five drivers prefers three to four wheels; but of those who are allowed to choose, 19 out of 20 are today driving the cars.

Among other matters, the invalid convoy hoped to inform the minister that what tacit support there has been among drivers for the tricycles has sprung largely from the fear of few enthusiasts from the fear that if the tricycles were withdrawn nothing else would be available. The fear has been subtly encouraged at government level ("Are you saying that all three-wheelers should be taken off the road at

once?" I have been asked several times—but, no, the demand for many years has been that they be phased out and replaced as quickly as possible).

It is part of the contemptuous indignation to which drivers feel themselves subjected by the issuing authorities and their agents. The high incidence of mechanical failure in tricycles, to which the standard abuse of DESS maintenance contracts recently exposed by the AA no doubt contributed, greatly increases their dependence on the good will of these people.

All of which raises a single overriding question. When every specious argument about the tricycle's origin as a prosthetic device has been beaten down; when it has been established that its replacement by a cheaper, safer, better-made, British car giving twice the mileage per gallon and four times the open road capacity need open no flood-gates of demand against which a government would be powerless—why does anyone insist that a lonely, noisy, uncomfortable, uncontrollable, unreliable, flimsy, petrol-hungry tricycle, universally condemned as absurdly liable to break down, is the best vehicle in which to launch untutored paraplegics and haemophiliacs, with flailing muscles or crumbling bones, on to the crowded roads of 1975?

The question baffles almost everyone outside the DESS. Ministerial answers on the point remain evasive and unfrank. The Ombudsman's report, rigidly confining itself to examining the motives of officials, hardly attempted to answer it, and at last waited into an inconclusive judgment which, admitting the inherent comparative unsuitability of three-wheelers, accused the DESS's assurance that it was "their continued aim" to make them as safe as "technological" could contrive. The story of the convoy, Mr Morris suggests that the department's technology has a long way to go. Hitherto, as Graham Hill had it, it has been "bloody disgrace".

Adam Ferguson



Now that you know your Scotch, discover the pure taste of Glenfiddich Malt.

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The Times Diary

The little men in publishing

The inspiration for this bold departure came when the editor of *The Times* wanted to know who was publishing *The Young Hegel*, a book by the distinguished Hungarian Marxist philosopher, Georg Lukács. When we discovered the answer, Merlin Press, no-one was much the wiser, because few in the office could remember having heard of the imprint before.

Yet when we traced them to a warehouse in the Isle of Dogs, with two wooden offices hand-built by the staff in the owners, it transpired that they had published translations of nearly all Lukács's work, and had been in the business nearly 20 years.

Here then was a starting point for a survey of small publishers, their motivations, their problems and their lists in which we might discover whether the food for thought they put between covers was more varied than the fillings caterers put in their sandwiches.

Martin Eve, who had been Michael Joseph's London representative, started Merlin Press with the money he had earned and not managed to spend in the war. It was about £3,000. At about the same time Michael Joseph wrote an article saying that anyone would need at least £250,000 to start a publishing house then.

Eve's first venture was to publish a book for a friend, a Norfolk vicar. It was called *Folk Songs—Plain Song*, argued that composed music took its origins from folk songs and not vice versa, as was commonly

supposed, and took 12 years to sell its first printing. Eve, however, decided that it had gone better than he expected and that other books would be comparatively easy to sell. So he launched into translations of Strindberg ("there was a considerable gap to be filled") and then turned to left-wing politics.

Most of his list now is made up of books to interest Marxists and socialists of the own politics Eve says: "I am a member of the Labour Party, and by his first left-wing publication sold just 300 copies." In spite of splendid reviews. But lack of a Marxist also meant freedom from censorship. When he first published Lukács, he says, nobody else was interested, but now left-wing books are saleable and are chased by "practically any publisher you can name".

Eve now produces about ten titles a year. The majority, he says, are "books which I think are likely to contribute to the world of letters, and which I want to see", and he originates many of them himself.

The others are intended to provide "bread and butter" and have included books on jazz, Oriental carpets and English silver. For several years he supported himself and a list replete with neglected classics and unfashionable ideas on the proceeds of *Folk Songs—Plain Song*. But the tide has turned. In the *New Statesman* and

thought they were the funniest things I have seen for years." Now he employs an assistant and a young man to do the packing, and he is running the bread and butter lines down. "But a lot of people are starting to read in publishing now, and I don't know how they are managing."

Next: *Lemon Tree Press*.

Familiar

Full page advertisements in American magazines this week enjoy "Come face to face with another Britain"—urging television viewers to watch a National Geographic Society documentary entitled *This Britain: Heritage of the Sea*. One problem is that a good third of the film is about Sark, the tiny Channel Island, which is not a part of the United Kingdom. Instead they are left believing that the island's arctic location, particularly under the name of Sark, is shown at length, is just another cute facet of the exotic British.

The film was given a preview at the British Embassy in Washington, and will be shown on many public television stations next week. Like most things from the National Geographic Society it is excellent, and has a breathtaking sequence from berring smacks battling a winter gale off Stornoway.

But the title arouses false expectations. Instead of getting to its main theme from Stornoway, the film drifts off inex-

plably to Speaker's Corner, the Queen's Guards, Princess Anne's wedding, ravens at the Tower, and finally to Sark. There is not a breath about North Sea oil, which suggests an excess of cynicism on the part of the film's sponsor, Gulf Oil Corporation.

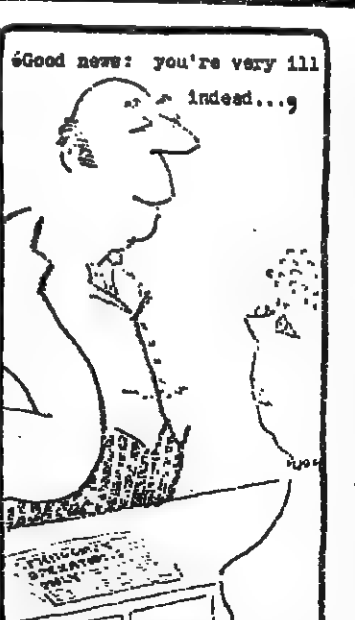
One line brought the house down at the preview. The man who clips the Tower ravens' wings said, after the legend was mentioned: "If the walls of the White Tower fell down and a great disaster were to befall Britain I'd have a lot to answer for."

Horrifying report from Luanda in the Daily Telegraph: "I found only one hotel last night that could serve anything more than soup and fish. The exception, the Tropica, Luanda, was serving guests only."

Grounded

Michael Leapman's recommendation that lengthy flight delays are best enjoyed with a glass of wine, has been brought in a rival claim on behalf of Pan Am.

Rud Allen, who edits *Broadcast*, says that in 1972 he was given three days in Sydney as Pan Am's expense because of a delay in Fiji because he missed his connection. Passengers with less time to spare were transferred to other airlines, but Allen enjoyed the "fun-filled" days including a guided tour of the city in a chauffeur-driven limousine and the services of smiling agents who insisted in the conspiracy to obtain as much free out of the airline as possible. He concluded that if Pan Am were losing hundreds of millions of dollars, they were at least doing it in style.



flamingos, and one nascent claimant to have glimpsed giraffes in the dark on the main lawn, but by that time Muir said, it was too pain for him even to open his eyes.

Monster

The biggest turkey in the world made a brief appearance at a London hotel yesterday weigh in at 71lb 12oz and 1 for its breeder, a farmer at Ludlow, Shropshire, a trophy. In the annual competition to find the heaviest bird the year it beat its nearest rival by nearly 4lb, and a truly phenomenal record of 65lb, way of course, dead.

As the grotesque carcass lay on the scales to have pictures taken there were reports of "lead shot" in the dead bird's leg, but the bird said that when he had shot the previous night it was 76lb. "More birds appear under the television lights," he added.

Arthur Lowe, of *Fawlty Towers*, then auctioned the bird to another visitor, a Frenchman, for £100. As auction was proceeding, a man who was trying to get the bird to show people higher struts and strutted and danced in on the floor. The bird was left where he was going to be on him big enough to be a monster which, being a live one, was not going to be that tender anyway.

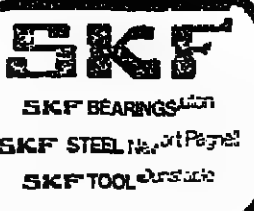
The Greater London Council research publication on *Devolution* is compiled by Guy Sedgwick.

PH

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Mr Benn's offer for Burmah's Sea oil stake arts row

London, Dec 3.—Mr Benn's offer to buy a 20 per cent stake in Burmah's North Sea oil assets has been rejected by the company's board, which said it was not in a position to accept the offer. The offer, which was made on December 1, was for a 20 per cent stake in the company's North Sea oil assets, valued at £100 million. The offer was made by Mr Benn, who is a member of the House of Commons and a member of the Conservative Party. The offer was made in the context of a dispute over the company's North Sea oil assets, which has been ongoing for some time. The company's board said that it was not in a position to accept the offer because it was not in a position to sell the assets. The offer was made by Mr Benn, who is a member of the House of Commons and a member of the Conservative Party. The offer was made in the context of a dispute over the company's North Sea oil assets, which has been ongoing for some time. The company's board said that it was not in a position to accept the offer because it was not in a position to sell the assets.

Text of new coffee agreement approved

By Wallace Jackson
Commodities Editor

After a month of talks in London, the council of the 32 member International Coffee Organisation yesterday finally approved the text of a new International Coffee Agreement. The pact will last for six years and will be open for signature at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, which opens in January 1974. The agreement will govern foreign exchange operations in which the recent demand for dollars has continued to exceed supply.

Yen move designed to spur exports

From Koji Nakamura
Tokyo, Dec 3

The decision taken late yesterday by the finance ministry and the Bank of Japan to lower the yen to the dollar to 308 yen from 303 yen is designed to stimulate exports, according to informed sources here.

The newly-established floor is the level to which the yen was revalued from 360 to the dollar four years ago. While the yen has always remained at a higher level than the Smithsonian rate, the recent fall in exports (in November they were 10 per cent less than a year ago) and the sustained deficits in current account and capital transactions had seriously affected Japan's foreign exchange reserves. At the end of November, foreign exchange reserves stood at \$12,938 million, less than in October and equal to the level in August, 1972. Although the guideline has

made it clear that a further fall in the yen would be considered, the move to 308 yen was seen as a signal that the government was prepared to take further action to stimulate exports. The move was also seen as a signal that the government was prepared to take further action to stimulate exports.

It has been pointed out that the move to 308 yen would increase the yen's value by 1.6 per cent, but that was the first time Japan had registered a trade deficit for some years. As for the country's foreign exchange reserves, some \$6,000 million had been lost since the yen's value reached its peak of 360 yen in 1971. In February 1973, the reserves stood at \$12,938 million.

Cubitt civil engineering site in rash crisis

By Malcolm Brown

A leading British construction company may have to close its civil engineering division if an extraordinary cash-raising operation does not bear fruit within the next few days. Drake & Cubitt Holdings said yesterday that it had become involved in a series of circumstances almost wholly beyond its control which was undermining the financial base of its civil engineering division. Details will be disclosed in this week's edition of the magazine *Building*, published tomorrow.

Mr Anthony Hannen, chairman of Drake & Cubitt Holdings, said yesterday that the crisis had arisen after difficulties over the A203 contract in Twickenham for the Greater London Council. The company had been using a contractual system of falsework—a framework supporting moulds into which concrete is placed in its design for the elevated section of the road. After bridge collapses in 1972 at Koblenz, Germany, Pasadena, California and in England, in which the falsework seemed to be the only common factor in the design, Drake & Cubitt decided that it would be prudent to redesign its falsework on the A203 contract.

Redesign put the timetable back 18 months and added an estimated £7m to the original £6m cost of the contract. Drake & Cubitt argues that this doubling in cost was largely because of the enormous increase in the rate of inflation during the period in which the contract was in its original completion date. The company, it appears, hoped that it would receive an extra payment from the GLC, because the redesign had been done from safety motives, believing it would be irresponsible to carry on with the original falsework.

It was agreed within the company that Drake & Cubitt should bear part of the extra cost, but that the GLC should be asked to contribute about £3m. But the A203 contract was arranged on a fixed price basis and the GLC found itself unable to make the hoped-for lump sum payment. Mr Hannen said offered to back up the company if Drake & Cubitt approached the Department of the Environment for financial aid. An approach was made in August.

The department in its turn, according to Mr Hannen, expressed regret that it could not help directly with financial aid, but was prepared to back the company in a concerted operation of collecting outstanding claims from other public sector authorities. The theory was that a speedy collection of money due to Drake & Cubitt in claims would ease the cash flow position. Last night Mr Hannen said that the claims operation was getting a good response, but it was too early yet to say whether it would be sufficient. The company expected to know by the end of this week.

"What we will have to do if we don't get any assistance is to close the civil engineering company. The civil engineering company cannot stand a £5.7m loss," Mr Hannen said.

Hope of end to Leyland strike today

By R. W. Shakespeare

A strike by seven men which has halted all car production at Leyland's two large assembly plants and made nearly 7,500 other workers idle, will end today—provided that the rest of the 300-strong labour force at the factory where the strikers work agree with the settlement terms that have been proposed by the management.

This extraordinary peace-making formula emerged yesterday from a meeting at which the seven strikers, who are internal truck drivers at the Leyland-owned components factory, Oxford Radiators, decided to accept terms agreed between the company and union representatives.

Later a British Leyland spokesman said that the 500 workers who are laid off at Oxford Radiators would be asked to report for work at their usual time today. The settlement terms would then be put to them. The implication is that the company has made some concession to the drivers, who were demanding that they be moved into a higher wage grade, but that some "strings" are attached.

Meanwhile, the effects of the stoppage worsened considerably yesterday when the Marina car lines at Cowley had to be closed and another 1,280 workers were laid off.

Ford and Vauxhall see an 'unfair' advantage in any Chrysler rescue

By Our Industrial Staff

Ford Motor Company and Vauxhall Motors, which are both American-owned, are understood to have told Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, that they would view with deep concern any major injection of state funds into the financially-troubled Chrysler UK.

They have told the Government that no amount of propping up of Chrysler UK by public funds would create a single new buyer for British-made cars, but such action would give a financial advantage to one competitor at their expense.

Mr Varley has consulted the Ford and Vauxhall managements to hear their views about the future of Chrysler UK to sound out their likely response to any government-backed rescue plan.

Both companies have already had sight of the report on the future of the Chrysler UK plant, which is to be put forward by the Central Policy Review Staff. In their individual discussions with Whitehall, the two companies apparently had great views on the point that they already have many grievances about the state involvement in the Chrysler UK plant. One of the companies claimed that Leyland Cars had been spending money to "corner" the market for the sale of cars, which was an exclusive right, serving to damage Chrysler UK. It was on a scale which neither Ford nor Vauxhall could justify on normal commercial grounds, with the end result of laying the distribution pipeline and conferring the advantages on competitors, including importers. Both Ford and Vauxhall say they have made significant investments and reorganised their operations, being their place on a strong home market. Any growth has to be won competitively. The provision of any subsidy to Chrysler, therefore, would confer unfair advantages to that company without any guarantee that there will be sufficient demand for its cars, given the Central Policy Review Staff market forecasts and its main argument of the need for rationalisation in the interest of efficient output.

Italian union backs Fiat's Innocenti plan

From John Earle
Rome, Dec 3

Leyland's Innocenti crisis appeared a step nearer settlement today when the Italian Metalworkers Federation gave a qualified welcome to an offer by Fiat to take over the plant for the manufacture of commercial vehicles. It is expected that a three-cornered meeting will be held on Friday between Signor Mario Toros and Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, Ministers of Labour and Industry, the management of Fiat, and Mr Percy Piant, chairman of Leyland-Innocenti, who a week ago announced that British Leyland was putting the company into liquidation.

Fiat's offer was seen as a qualified public sector financing to help to reconvert the former Leyland subsidiary in Milan from the assembly of Minis to that of light commercial vehicles and vans. Fiat has assured the unions

that a takeover of Innocenti would not prejudice its own capital investment programme creating new jobs. A statement by the Metalworkers Federation said the Fiat proposal could represent a basis for solution, even if various aspects need to be clarified and set out in detail. During the reconversion period the unions recommended that agreement should be reached with British Leyland to continue assembling Minis.

even with the imports from Europe—is bound to provoke more concern. No details are available of the additional tonnages which may now be brought in from Europe, but it is clear that even further aid—but the fact that it may happen can only worsen the corporation's relationship with the work force which has already been asked to cooperate in accepting further large cutbacks. In the first six months of the current financial year, the BSC lost £125m and the forecast for the full year is that these losses could exceed £350m.

Labour disputes are the main reason for the BSC's move to overseas suppliers. US importers complain, page 18

NVT workers press claim for state loans of £10m

By Clifford Webb

An Action Committee representing 1,500 workers at Norton Villiers Triumph's Wolverhampton plant is pressing a claim for a £10m state loan to help the company to meet its obligations to the Department of Industry last night to urge government support for their plan to reopen the motor cycle plant.

It was closed nearly four months ago and a liquidator installed at the company's request. The plan calls for an initial government loan of £5m with a further £5m to be spread over five years. This will be supplemented by privately arranged finance, some of which, it is believed, is on offer from overseas motor cycle sources. However, the unnamed private investors have made

government-backing a condition of their participation in the venture. The Action Committee want to build a new 500cc, twin-cylindered motor cycle called the Wulf and employing a radically new design of engine. It is a lightweight machine using an Italian engine and mainly Italian components. The committee were accompanied yesterday by Mr Bob Edwards, Labour MP for Wolverhampton South West. Mr Bob Wright, national official of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Mr Peter Turner, Midlands secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, two motor cycle designers, Mr John Pavill and Mr Bernard Hooper, and an accountant.

BSC advises customers to buy their strip abroad

By Peter Hill

The British Steel Corporation's strip mills division is warning its customers that they may have to buy steel abroad during the next few months because of the corporation's inability to meet demand. Last night the BSC would make no formal comment. This latest move follows the revelation last month that the BSC had placed orders worth about £20m with continental steelmakers for about 200,000 tonnes of semi-finished steel. This is destined mainly for Britain's car manufacturers. Most of the BSC's workforce is already on short-time working and the fact that they have now sold customers, may not be able to meet demands in the first quarter of next year.

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Labour disputes are the main reason for the BSC's move to overseas suppliers. US importers complain, page 18

Norwegian shelf stake for minex and Swedes

London, Dec 3.—Deminex and Sweden's Petrosvade have acquired a stake in oil exploration licences in 11 blocks in Norway's north shelf, a Deminex spokesman said today.

The stakes were held from a consortium of Chevron, Texaco, and Norway's Petrosvade. But the Norwegian is retaining its participation.

The spokesman said Deminex's participation would be around 20 per cent, but he declined to give the Petrosvade and Pelican shares. He would not give further financial details and estimates of possible oil reserves in the blocks. Informal sources said the block is between the Ekofisk oilfield and Norway's mainland south of 58 degrees latitude. They added that Deminex, Petrosvade and Pelican are planning to sink two wells there soon.—Reuters.

al Street dips on fears the economy

London, Dec 3.—The FT 100 index fell 17.71 points on Wall Street yesterday, making a decline of 35 points in three days. Dow Jones Industrial average sank to 825.49.

Analysts said fears for the economy had been eased by the statement of First National City Bank of New York that rising unemployment, falling retail sales and falling production confirmed the economy had slowed from its summer recovery.

Minister's freeze shareholding

London, Dec 3.—Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, told the rare yesterday a freezing of shareholding in the "shell" company Darjeel Holdings, or the provision of section of the Companies Act 1949, is the follows the refusal of beneficial controller of a share of Mr company of Fireball to disclose his identity to the two department Trade Inspector appointed July to investigate Darjeel.

Further regulations, also to issued shortly, will require insurance brokers to disclose connections with insurance companies with which they do business. Such links in shareholding and sole

Investment rules to safeguard policyholders

By Anthony Rowley
Insurance Correspondent

Government action to prevent further insurance company failures would include "direct intervention" in their investment portfolios in the future, Mr Stanley Clinton-Davis, Under Secretary for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said yesterday.

He also appeared to suggest some wider direction of insurance companies' investments where these were thought to serve neither the policyholders nor the nation's interest. Foreshadowing the effects of proposed further regulations governing the valuation of insurance companies' assets, Mr Clinton-Davis, speaking at a Financial Times conference on world insurance, said that in future the Department of Trade would be able to require changes in a company's portfolio. This would be in cases where the department considered that the investments held were "not in the interests of policyholders or where the pattern of holdings contained a threat to solvency or liquidity." The new regulations will limit the extent to which large, single assets such as shares or loans in a company or group can be taken into account in determining solvency.

Talks on nuclear fuel to resume

British Nuclear Fuels and Japanese power companies have agreed to reopen negotiations next month on an arrangement for reprocessing in Britain used nuclear fuel from Japanese utilities, a spokesman for the power companies said in Tokyo.

Under the arrangement Britain would reprocess some 4,000 tonnes of used nuclear fuel from Japan at a plant to be built at Windscale, Cumberland, over 10 years, beginning in 1979 or 1980.

Anger over New York conversion offer

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Dec 3

New York's Municipal Assistance Corporation has been forced to extend from December 10 to December 29 the final date on its offer to convert \$1,600m (about £62m) of New York City notes into 10-year bonds issued by the Corporation. Holders of the notes who do not accept the offer will be forced to convert their holdings into three-year notes at a low rate of interest and there will be no assurance whatever that repayment will be made at the end of the three-year period.

The note holders are furious about the nature of the deal, and the legality of the forced conversion is being tested in the courts. This decision by the Corporation to extend the offering date is officially said to be in order to give the courts time to reach a decision on the legality of the forced conversion, but informed sources also say that the offer will be weakened if the courts approve New York State's action and so open the way for any local authority indefinitely to postpone repayment to its bond and note holders.

Not forced to accept a repayment moratorium or a conversion into long-term bonds, then the whole New York State and City financial package, aimed at saving the city from bankruptcy in the next three years, could be in jeopardy. In addition, the ruling will have a direct impact on investor attitudes towards municipal bonds. Clearly the security of municipal bond investments will be weakened if the courts approve New York State's action and so open the way for any local authority indefinitely to postpone repayment to its bond and note holders.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 152.84 + 0.63
The FT index: 363.1 + 1.5

THE POUND			
	Bank	Spot	Bank
Australia	1.67	1.61	
Austria	38.75	38.75	
Belgium	85.50	85.50	
Canada	2.08	2.08	
Denmark	12.65	12.75	
Finland	8.00	7.75	
France	9.20	8.90	
Germany	12.10	12.10	
Greece	81.80	76.00	
Hongkong	10.40	10.00	
Italy	1535.00	1480.00	
Japan	610.00	615.00	
Netherlands	5.55	5.35	
Norway	11.45	11.10	
Portugal	75.00	65.00	
Spain	1.81	1.60	
Sweden	9.10	8.90	
Switzerland	5.50	5.30	
US \$	2.06	2.01	
Yugoslavia	40.50	37.00	

Rises			
Ass. Dairies	6p to 20p	Scottish	10p to 23p
Bell, A.	6p to 13p	Standard Chart	15p to 45p
Bentley	10p to 16p	Thyssen-Bornette	20p to 51p
Daily Mail	6p to 17p	Toni Edg. "F"	6p to 18p
Home Text	3p to 45p	UC Invest	5p to 26p
Martin, T.	3p to 51p	Unilever	4p to 40p
Mining Supplies	3p to 45p	Union Carb	5p to 40p

Falls			
Assam Trading	5p to 28p	Nicholson Ben	4p to 10p
Brassey	5p to 56p	Lyons, J. Ord	15p to 13p
Ch. Bk. of Aust	5p to 30p	Newmarket Tubes	2p to 44p
ENH Ltd	3p to 23p	Slater Walker	1p to 20p
Farway W. E.	3p to 18p	Smith, W. E.	1p to 20p
Imp Cold Store	3p to 12p	UT Textiles	1p to 41p
Interchange	3p to 34p	Waterfall Flat	6p to 13p

Equities had another good session but faltered after lunch. Day-ended securities had a quiet time. Sterling was 45 pips up at \$2.0250. The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.1 per cent. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1143.5 (previous 1141.4). SDRs: 1.17305 on Wednesday, £ was 0.586517. Gold was unchanged at \$139.25 per ounce. Reports, pages 20 and 21

Motor hire purchase business slides

London, Dec 3.—A big slide in the number of motor hire purchase contracts recorded last month, according to Hire Purchase Information, the total 84,006 contracts was 18 per cent down the October figure and 12 per cent less than 95,037 contracts for last November last year.

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Forecasters see modest 1976 upturn

All forecasting units are agreed that 1976 will see a slow recovery in the British economy. But the revival will be very modest and some forecasters believe that output will be almost static.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research published its latest forecast last month, updating its previous forecast in August. The Institute is now more pessimistic about output than before, predicting a 0.3 per cent recovery in gross domestic product compared to 1.2 per cent in August.

But its inflation forecast, at 10 per cent, is lower than the 14.1 per cent envisaged in August.

Other forecasts are little changed, with Hoare & Co. and Govett still the only forecasters expecting a current account payments surplus next year.

	NIESR (Nov)	1975 (Aug)	1976 (Nov)	H & G (Nov)	P & D (Dec)	1st half 1975/2nd half 1975 Treasury (Apr)	NIESR (Nov)
Consumption	-1.6	-1.7	-0.4	-1.5	-0.3	1.7	-0.7
Private investment inc.							
housebuilding	-4.0	1.9	-3.6	-5.1	-0.2	-3.8	-1.5
Public investment inc.							
housebuilding	0.4	-4.5	-2.4	0.3	-1.7	5.1	0.5
Public authorities consumption	2.2	2.5	-1.4	2.2	2.8	3.7	1.6
Exports	1.7	3.5	2.8	3.8	3.8	10.0	4.7
Imports	2.7	0.2	3.2	2.4	3.6	5.9	2.7
Stockbuilding (2m) Year 1975	-172	-119	90	-127	20	-200	-282
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	0.3	1.4	-0.1	0.7	1.4	2.5	1.3
Inflation forecast	10.0	15.4	16.4	14.2	15.5	—	11.9
Balance of payments—current account deficit (£m) Year 1975	2509	1121	1400	-166	1600	—	2636

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research
LBS London Business School
H & G Henley Centre
P & D Hoare & Co. Govett, as provided by data STREAM
& D Phillips & Drew

A forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the first half 1975/second half 1975 section are forecasts for the first half of 1975 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is 1970 prices.

The forecasts by the Treasury, the NIESR and LES are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H. & G. and P. & D. assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources. The forecasts by H. & G. and P. & D. are not completely comparable with differences are minor. Differences in results also reflect differences in assumptions, model constructions and data at which work performed. The month in which work was published is given in brackets.

The Treasury published its forecasts with the Financial Statement and Budget Report, which usually appears once a year. NIESR and LES revise their forecasts every quarter. H. & G. and P. & D. revise their forecasts every month.

US 'unfairly restricting' steel imports

From Frank Vogt
Washington, Dec 3

United States steel manufacturers are mounting the most wide-ranging campaign seen in a quarter of a century to protect the American market from imported steel products, according to Mr Seymour Graubard, legal counsel of the American Institute for Importers Steel.

The campaign is taking place as American manufacturers are striving to raise prices on the home market, where demand is falling.

Mr Graubard maintains that steel imports are the sole safeguard against rising prices, but that the manufacturers, led by the United States Steel Corporation, are now initiating a series of potentially damaging legal actions, coupled with widespread advertising, to restrict the volume of imports sharply.

The Institute's legal counsel argued at a press conference that this year's Trade Reform Act opened new avenues for the steel producers to obtain increased protection.

But the action of the steel manufacturers is just one of several major problems facing importers.

Mr Alex Grotin, president of the Institute, said production costs in Europe were now as high as in the United States, and to compete effectively in this market the European producers ran the risk of taking actual losses of as much as \$50 m. \$50 m.

These losses were not acceptable.

Neddy call to gear up for economic recovery

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Senior Government ministers yesterday came under further pressure from both trade union and management leaders to ensure that British industry was strongly placed to take quick advantage of the expected upturn in world economic activity next year.

At the monthly meeting of the National Economic Development Council, attended by the Chancellor, Mr Denis Healey, and Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, trade union leaders stressed that the Government could jeopardize cooperation from the shop floor in its new industrial strategy if unemployment levels continued to rise.

Sir Ronald MacLennan, director general of the National

Economic Development Office, said both sides had expressed concern that action should be taken now rather than later. The CBI representatives had been concerned about industrial confidence and the need to stimulate investment.

But, while both sides had been at pains to stress the need for positive steps, it was clear that yesterday's meeting, the first since the Chequers summit to discuss the Government's approach to industrial policy, had achieved little.

However, there was agreement that, while the United Kingdom economy had been the last to enter a recessionary phase and therefore might be the last to recover, it was important that industry should be able to take advantage of improved trading conditions.

Trade Board drive aims to boost exports 10pc

An export campaign which British Overseas Trade Board officials hope will result in an increase of at least 10 per cent in the sales of many of Britain's leading exporters was launched in Sheffield yesterday.

The campaign, which is being accompanied by royal visits to exporting companies, continues in Bristol next week and will eventually cover most areas of the country, Sir Frederick Cuthbert, chairman of the BOTB said.

Increased export earnings for Britain could bridge the

£2,000m balance of payments gap, he said, as well as reducing unemployment and bringing the prospect of higher industrial wages.

Britain was now a "poor" country in European terms but the "very competitive" pound, expanding export markets, and low EEC tariffs were in favour of exports.

Today more than 250 South Yorkshire executives, representing about 80 companies, will study from five of the region's top exporters.

Arab boycott admission by Leyland

By Malcolm Brown

The Anti-Arab Boycott Coordination Committee, a group of Jewish businessmen who have joined forces to fight the Arab boycott of Israel, yesterday claimed that British Leyland was now taking a firm stand against the boycott.

It released the text of a letter from Mr Alex Park, chief executive of British Leyland, to Mr Greville Janner, MP, in which Mr Park states: "I can assure you quite categorically that we do in fact supply the Israel market with vehicles and we do have an ongoing distribution network there, both for cars and for commercial vehicles."

Mr Janner, in a statement, said that Mr Park's letter represented a "clear, unequivocal, absolute and categorical assurance that British Leyland is not submitting to the Arab boycott."

British Leyland, which has been trying to get off the blacklist so that it can operate freely in Arab countries, was clearly embarrassed last night at the interpretation put by Mr Janner on Mr Park's words.

A spokesman for Leyland said that nothing Leyland was doing was contrary to the boycott rules. The company believed that the supply of vehicles did not in any way breach the boycott regulations.

Shell chemicals prices

Shell is to apply to the Price Commission for permission to increase its charges for chemical products. It is expected that the increase will be insufficient to meet the latest oil price increase.

More data soon on equity deals

The Stock Exchange yesterday disclosed plans to expand the flow of information on equity market turnover at present available to the general public and the investment community.

From next February the Exchange intends to publish its monthly trading statistics for the equity market under the separate sector headings used in the daily Financial Times Actuaries Index. The revised format will show the number of bargains and their value for each of the main groupings in the index.

The figures will be taken from the computer at the Central Checking Service in London and will therefore exclude, for the present, business transacted at the provincial units.

Mr Shore picks inquiry team

Membership of the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy, which has been set up to advise the Government on board representation in the private sector, was announced by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday.

Sir Alan Bullock, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, will chair the committee. Its members are: Professor George Bain, director of the Industrial Relations Research Unit for the University of Warwick; Mr N. P. Bages, chairman of Williams and Glen's Bank; Sir Jack Callard, a former chairman of ICI; Mr Barrie Heath, chairman of Gwent; and Mr John Methven, Director-General of Fair Trading. Professor K. W. Wedderburn, Cassel Professor of Commercial Law in the University of London (London School of Economics) and Mr N. S. Wilson, a solicitor.

The committee has been asked to report within 12 months.

Multinationals cited on safety

Multinational companies were criticized yesterday for their poor performance in ensuring the safety of workers.

Mr James Hammer, Chief Inspector of Factories, presenting his annual report for 1974 said: "Companies which project a national image of enlightened and forward-looking management have units with standards of safety that the directors, if they knew about them, would be proud to show."

For so long as the relief is made available only to those industries that can prove a distortion of trading patterns without it, the unrepresented sectors of the economy will be at a serious disadvantage. For example, the relief is given for antique antiques (which is fine for the dealer and for those who can afford antiques) but it is not given for "junk" (which is not so fine for the dealer who has to charge 25 per cent VAT on the full value of a 50p second-hand electric iron). Antiques are, by

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chrysler: time to face some 'realities'

From Mr John Davis

Sir, It is time that some realities were faced in the Chrysler problem:

1. Chrysler cars, like any others, will sell in the required quantity if priced at a level which is competitive.
2. The Chrysler company, like any other, will prosper, providing the net revenue from sales is at least 10 per cent greater than the sum total of all its expenses.

3. The fact that Chrysler UK has persistently made serious losses is a result of total expenses exceeding revenue year after year—despite which fact its employees at all levels have taken frequent increases in pay and on average take £300 pa per employee more than British Leyland employees.

4. The UK Chrysler company, like any other company, is bound to fail with present pay levels because employee remuneration is 109 per cent of the value added in production. This compares with 89 per cent for Ford UK and about 90 per cent for BLMC and Vauxhall.

5. The Chrysler company can in the short term become prosperous once more and employees jobs be saved in one of two ways only:

(a) by the Government providing taxpayers' money—most of whom earn

less than Chrysler employees—to maintain Chrysler employees at the level of remuneration to which they have become accustomed or
(b) all Chrysler employees accept a reduced level of remuneration until such time as either they have improved productivity and/or improve designs which will provide a greater added value.

6. The average capital employed per employee in Chrysler UK is reported as £1,600. Since this is no more than the price of a popular new car, it would surely be within the financial capacity of Chrysler employees to acquire their own company from the present owners but work cooperatively within a common ownership structure to rebuild their own company into a profitable enterprise.

It would appear that a solution to the problem of jobs for Chrysler employees is entirely within their own grasp and there is no reason why they should be subsidized by people less well off than themselves—which includes many other car workers.

Yours truly,
JOHN DAVIS,
"Wilton Corner",
10 Grafton Road,
Buckfield,
Bucks.

Fairer distribution of VAT relief

From Mr Leslie J. P. Livens

Sir, The General Aviation Manufacturers' and Traders' Association's application to have the supply of used aircraft partially relieved from VAT (The Times, November 24, page 21) will, if successful, remove one anomaly from the VAT scene, but will not do much to correct the current inequitable situation that has been created by applying the second-hand goods relief selectively rather than generally.

For so long as the relief is made available only to those industries that can prove a distortion of trading patterns without it, the unrepresented sectors of the economy will be at a serious disadvantage.

For example, the relief is given for antique antiques (which is fine for the dealer and for those who can afford antiques) but it is not given for "junk" (which is not so fine for the dealer who has to charge 25 per cent VAT on the full value of a 50p second-hand electric iron). Antiques are, by

their very nature, second-hand and they have a value (normally increasing) which is directly attributed to their age and scarcity—for these reasons it is quite possible to construct a cogent argument for having antiques treated as "new" goods. Surely then, if antiques are to be relieved, "junk" should likewise be treated.

Another example of the anomalies which exist is that second-hand marine engines are fully taxed, but if sold as part of a motor hull they will effectively be relieved.

There are many other anomalies which will be resolved only by reversing the present policy—i.e. by applying the relief generally and taking out of the scheme certain specified goods, trade or industries.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE J. P. LIVENS,
Editor, *Comer's Reference Book for V.T.*,
Crozier Publications Limited,
1620, Cornhill Road,
New Malden,
Surrey, KT3 9L.
November 28.

Economists and the problems of Britain

From Mr G. E. J. Dennis
Sir, Economists have in some months been under considerable fire for their supposed inability to agree on a programme to reduce the high rate of inflation in the United Kingdom. The criticism comes on top of the combined problems of balance of payments deficits, low growth and general poor economic performance in this country in much of the postwar period, may be opportune to attempt to put the record straight at this time.

The majority of real economists appreciate that the causes of the recent high inflation have been the excessive "go for growth" campaign of the early 1970s, the relaxation of the control on a banking system in 1972 and a huge American balance of payments deficits of the late 1960s, all of which contributed to an excessive monetary growth in the early 1970s. Other factors such as the rise in import prices—in particular oil—are seen as "whipping boys" and appear to influence the rate of inflation, due to the expansion demand in the economy. In practice, such cost-push factors are irrelevant to our recent experience of spiralling prices.

Likewise, the cure of inflation is clear and unequivocal. Expectations of inflation must be reduced and monetary growth cut back drastically towards a level of around 5 per cent. This is not happening adequately depicts to obvious effect that the maintenance of employment is the major aim of the present administration. Such a piecemeal attempt to curb inflation as the recent £6m wage incomes limit can only succeed if expectations of inflation are reduced. Other aspects of policy, such as the excessive government expenditure for example, The National Enterprise Board and Chrysler?, are illustrative of the primacy of the government's employment objectives.

Economists can cure inflation given the chance. However, until the government places the cure of inflation as its major objective, prices will continue to rise and the pound fall. This severe conflict between full employment and inflation is on a price of the acceptance of any particular school of thought—it is the cost of a profligate and extravagant period at its start of this decade.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY E. J. DENNIS,
Midland Bank Lecturer in Economics,
Loughborough University
Technology,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 3TU.

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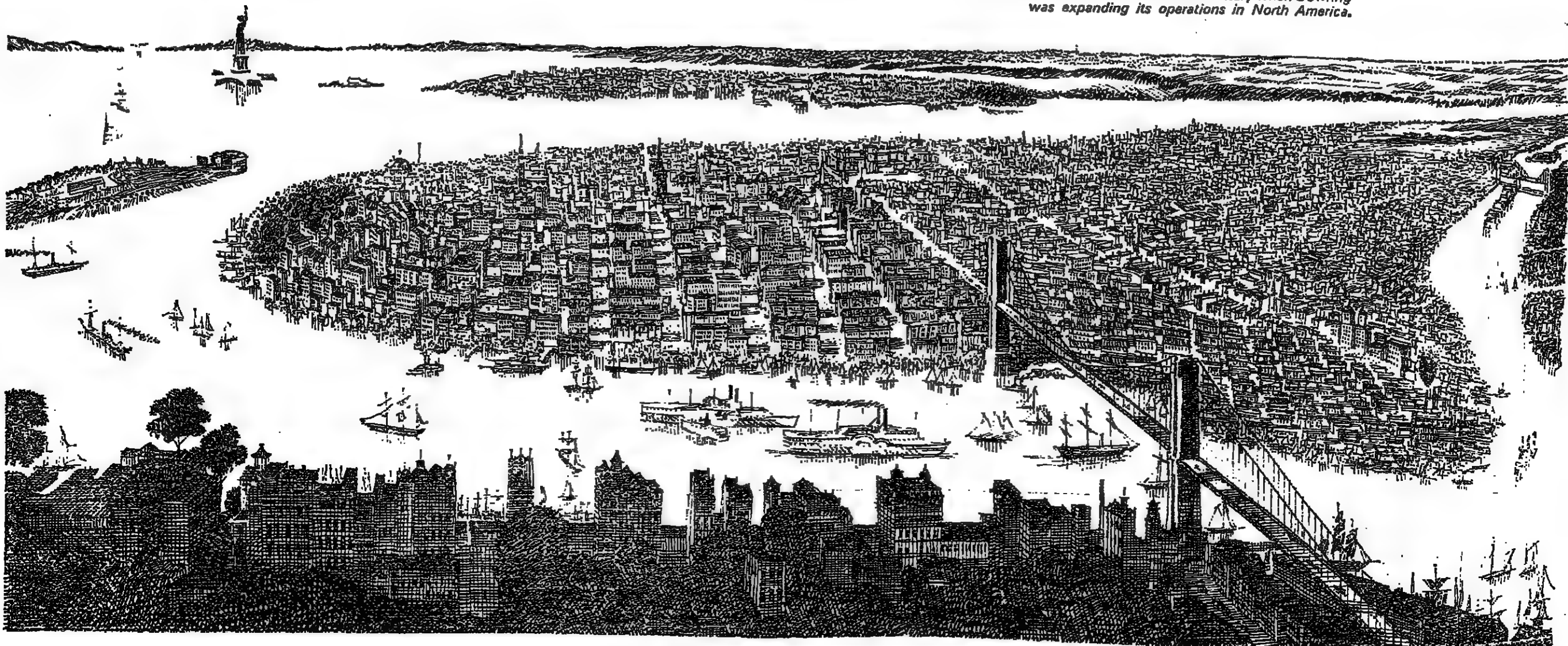
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New York at the end of last century when Bowring was expanding its operations in North America.



سكوتيا للبحر

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Early gains cut back as Wall St opens

Equities enjoyed another good session yesterday. But pace of the market's advance began to falter at midday, and the early setback on Wall Street was taken as a reason to cut share prices back sharply in late dealings on the London market.

There was no rush to sell stock, however, and most of the leaders managed to hold on to their gains—although closing prices were well below the best levels.

The FT index touched 373.2 at noon, and seemed set fair to challenge the previous peak for this year. But by the end of the session, the gain in the index had been cut to 1.5, at 368.1. Turnover, by recorded bargains of 6.412, was lower.

Gifts again had a quiet day, although there was something of a revival of interest in "shorts". Activity was higher than earlier in the week and the undertone was stronger. "Long-

Street prices brought a swift reaction in London and the early gains promptly melted away.

For the longer-term outlook, there were still bulls among the stockbrokers. Wall Street had so far been largely ignored in London, but last night's predictions from across the Atlantic that the United States recovery may be postponed could undermine London's optimism.

Casualties of the late setback included EMI, which is not only a Wall Street-oriented share, but has also attracted a considerable speculative following in London.

Shares in EMI touched 217p at best, but ran back to close at 213p, a net 3p lower. Rank "A" closed unchanged at 160p after shedding an early gain and Bats at 323p, after 332p. Bowater (164p) and Reed International (237p) also reacted as United States market fell back.

Unilever, finally 4p up at 408p, had touched 413p, and Beecham (335p), Tube Investments (298p), Plessey (80p) and British Leyland (30p) had little to show for themselves by the end of the session.

Hawker to take a third of Onan at the second attempt

By David Mott

The on-off affair between Hawker Siddeley and Studebaker Worthington over the Onan diesel engine company has finally been resolved. Hawker, who was to be stripped of its aircraft interests, has agreed to take a stake of about one-third worth £17m.

The move is a direct switch of investment from the de Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada sold to the Canadian Government for the same amount last year.

In July there was an agreement in principle under which Hawker would take a 33 per cent stake in the 80 per cent owned and publicly-held shares. This would have led to a 50-50 ownership, but soon after the two said they could not agree.

Now that Hawker is keen to build up its non-aircraft side and cash in on the strong world-wide demand for all types of diesel engines, a similar agreement has been reached, save that Hawker will get one-third of Onan. Under it Hawker will offer \$32.50 (the same price as in the earlier deal) for each of 600,000 public shares and SW will sell up to 800,000 Onan shares to bring the holding up to 1.1m shares.

Another 47,500 will also be bought under stock options.

The deal means Hawker will have two representatives on the six-man Onan board, and also for the Peters subsidiary to provide Onan with diesel technology under licensing agreements.

Though to date a subsidiary company, Onan is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and produces a wide range of electric generator sets and controls for use in the power industry. Other interests include petrol engines. It will continue to be managed by the same people.

The Bill to nationalize the shipbuilding industry narrowly got a second reading in Parliament this week as the deal has come at a good time for Hawker. The group is thought to be thinking of further acquisitions in the electrical and mechanical engineering field.

The move lifts the shares unchanged at 320p.

Wagon Ind comes off the boil

By Tony May

Tough going and an inch trial dispute which particularly a leading subsidiary, from the pre-tax profits of £10m to £10.7m to £10.0m, the six months to September 30. Turnover went from £11m to £12.3m. The second quarter saw a sound recovery but holidays meant that group traded for less in weeks.

Net profits for the half went down from £510,000 to £482,000 while the interim is £480,000, against £500,000. Even so, the dividend of 3.13p adjusted for a scrip to 3.23p. Earnings a share 5.1p against 5.6p.

Mr C. Leslie Smith, chairman, says that the small pick-up demand announced at annual meeting in September will enable the group to turn a profit for the year to nearly equal to the 1974 record of £2.23m. He expects to pay a dividend of the full year "at least" to the 5.6p gross paid time.

Morgan-Grampian firmly on the mend

By Peter Elliott

Publishing and property group, Morgan-Grampian, has exceeded its own expectations at the half-way stage. After a 19 per cent decline in the second half last year to £588,000, the group has turned a pre-tax profit of £312,000 for the six months to September 30. Revenue rose 7 per cent to £9.73m. But as expected, the interim dividend is the most allowed again with an increase to 1.60p against 1.44p.

After the 69 per cent decline in full profits last year, the group is in better shape to ride out recession in publishing property. But Mr Graham Sherman, chief executive, said it still had a long way to go. He told Business News: "We are only now clawing back what we lost in inflation—higher costs, increased postage, etc. But I am confident and feel better than I have done for two years. The current half is going well, and I think second half profits will be substantially better than the first. The advertising group needs another year to get over cost increases."

Mr Sherman said the full year's results will not match 1973's £2.5m, but a long chalk. "But with the second

half traditionally a better performer, profits should comfortably beat last year's £556,000.

In the United Kingdom, profits during the six months to September rose 79 per cent to £297,000. This was offset by a reduced loss of £119,000 in the United States but interest receivable rose from £78,000 to £134,000. United Kingdom turnover rose 5 per cent to £5.4m over the same period, while American revenue 11 per cent to £4.2m. Mr Sherman reports that the recent upturn in the United States continues. But the expected additional revenue from advertising will not appear until the next financial year.

French company joining Mysn

The Mysn Group has been joined by Thyssen, Europe NV, 20 per cent of whose capital is held by the company. Construction techniques Calorizantes SA (C for 1.25m French francs (ab £140,000)).

CTC is one of the largest porters and distributors heating and domestic equipment in France. CTC specializes in heating a residential, commercial or industrial premises. The company's products are complementary to Mysn's, which already enjoys a substantial share of the French market for commercial industrial ventilating products.

Combined sales of the two companies are expected to exceed 60m francs a year.

Smaller brewers prosper

The swing back to real ale and the summer are producing some interesting results from Britain's regional breweries. J. A. Devenish, the Weymouth brewer with interests in hotels and off-licenses, reports pre-tax profits of £1.13m against £855,000 for the year ended September 30. Turnover was up from £8.5m to £10.2m. At the half-way stage the company's pre-tax profits were unchanged at £1,070,000, but it regularly increased the amount invested in these two countries, and the Far East. More than 25 per cent of the portfolio is in the Far East, and it regularly increases the amount invested in these two countries, and the Far East.

Brit Dredging to fight petition

A petition for the winding-up of Pauls Federated Merchants, a subsidiary of British Dredging, has been filed by a minority shareholder. But British Dredging, which holds nearly 75 per cent of the shares, says it sees no merit in the petition. So it has instructed solicitors to oppose the move.

British Dredging's board says the petition is no reflection on the solvency of the company, which, it declares, is in "good financial order".

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Div	Year	Pay	Year's	Prev
Alpine Soft (10p) Int	2.0	1.8	26/1	—	5.6
Armistage Shanks (25p) Int	1.30	2.01	—	—	4.00
Daily Mail (5p)	1.36	1.57	—	—	3.36
B. Elliott (25p) Int	1.78	1.57	2/1	—	3.52
J. Lyons (11p) Int	2.03	2.1	2/1	—	7.37
Morgan-Grampian (25p) Int	1.04	0.96	2/1	—	2.18
Shaw & Martin (10p) Int	1.11	0.35	—	—	0.35
W. H. Smith (11p) Int	2.81	2.64	—	—	8.31
Vernon Fashion (10p)	1.11	0.94	12/1	—	2.35
Wagon Tugs (25p) Int	2.1	2.17	15/1	—	5.69
WV Broad Inv (10p) Int	1.34	1.51	—	—	5.69

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on dividend per share. Earnings where in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. "Cents a share." Adjusted for scrip.

Briefly

FOCUS Government cuts in capital expenditure mean that the competition work has become "inevitably more fierce", Mr C. Foch, the chairman of this group of building and civil engineering contractors, reports.

SHAW AND MARVIN On turnover of £520,000 (£595,000), pre-tax profits fell from £13,769 to £234 in half-year to September 30. No interim dividend (against 0.5p gross). Conditions improved in last two months but competition and price restraint continued to restrict margins.

TITAGHUR JUTE FACTORY The prospects for the group's companies in India must be considered "gloomy indeed", Sir John Brown, chairman, says in the United Kingdom, the year has started "reasonably satisfactorily".

LAWTEX Chairman told annual meeting that, during past year, work has been provided for all group's factories without short-time working. He hoped it would be possible to maintain this trend.

JOHNSON & FIRTH BROWN Early-conversion scheme for 9 per cent convertible loan stock, 1983-90, has been approved. Holders of £59,000 elected to keep stock. So £6,500 ordinary have been allotted to holders of £3,650 stock converted.

LOSS BY AMSTERDAM SHIP-REPAIRERS Droogdok Maaschappij NV, the biggest ship-repairing firm of land and port in Amsterdam, expects up to a 7m fl loss for 1975. The company attributes the losses to a continuous poor-market situation.—A.P.-Dow Jones.

BENFIELD AND LONLEY Pre-tax profit £34,000 (£32,000) for half-year to end-August on turnover of £2.1m (£2.19m).

Alpine Drinks bubble merrily

The pre-tax profits of Alpine Soft Drinks jumped 53 per cent to £512,000 in the first half to September 27. Sales rose 18 per cent to £3.48m. The board says the price of soft drinks has declined since its peak earlier this year. Despite this and other cost increases margins held up.

It adds that the bulk of the year's delivery rounds will exceed 300 and the directors are "confident that profits will show a satisfactory increase for the sixth successive year." The interim dividend rises from 2.68p to 3.08p. The shares hardened on the news.

Pres Steyn fire bdd under-estimated

Output from Anglo American Corporation's President Steyn gold mine has been cut by 10 per cent since the fire which broke out in the shaft last August was shut down.

At first the company hoped to work part of the mine by the end of December, but a return to full production is not expected until March. The cut also holds up an increase in overall grade recovered by the mine, as the 40 per cent of the value of all the mine's output is the mine, which is in the tonnage, medium-grade ore. The loss of production of 270 tons.

Records first half by Whitbread Inv

Pre-tax profits of Whitbread Investment, the investment trust, rose 49 per cent to £1.13m in the first half to September 27. Sales rose 18 per cent to £3.48m. The board says the price of soft drinks has declined since its peak earlier this year. Despite this and other cost increases margins held up.

It adds that the bulk of the year's delivery rounds will exceed 300 and the directors are "confident that profits will show a satisfactory increase for the sixth successive year." The interim dividend rises from 2.68p to 3.08p. The shares hardened on the news.

C & S offer accounts by Trianco board

The Trianco board has unanimously accepted Central Sherwood's offer of 26p for every 50p preference share and 7.02p cash for each ordinary share. The board says it received assurances from employees' interests and needs shareholders to accept the offer. Mr. Alexander Trianco, the chairman, has sold 542,000 shares at the price and will sell his ordinary and preference shares. The rest of the board accept the offer for their shares, totalling 5,000 ordinary shares. Before yesterday's preference offer, C & S had 1 per cent ordinary and 16 per cent preference stock.

Slater, Walker stakes

Blundell-Permaglaze Holdings announced yesterday that, as at November 14 last, Slater, Walker, its subsidiaries, unit trusts, and so on, held 900,000 ordinary shares in the company (14.13 per cent). This does not constitute a disclosure under the Companies Act.

York Trust also announced that as at November 21, Slater, Walker and its connections, held 480,000 ordinary shares in the trust (12.8 per cent). This too does not constitute a disclosure under the Companies Act.

Border oil search

Oil Exploration, an Edinburgh-based company, has started the fifth licence round for oil and gas in the Lofan and Lofan regions. Last year 86,000 of oil were produced from based wells in Britain.

ROBERTSON DISTRIBUTION Houston—Robertson Distribution Systems has acquired Fakhro Holding NV, a foreign company, with merger negotiations are conducted. Robertson expects a definitive agreement on acquisition of Fakhro's share of Fakhro will be submitted to its board on December 15. Fakhro is a Rotterdam engaged in marine transportation. Robertson involved in the marine area. AP-Dow Jones.

Cutlery groups link

The Richard of Sheffield group has agreed in principle to buy an 88 per cent stake in Archfield Investments from Dawson, Duv and their nominees. The price is 21p a share cash or £22,000 in all. Richard will undertake to acquire loans from Dawson Duv for a consideration of £178,000. The deal will be extended to other shareholders on the same terms. Archfield is the holding company for a group making a wide range of Sheffield cutlery, scissors and hand tools, complementary to Richard's main business.

Scots National Tst

For the time being Scottish National Trust Company plans to stay fully invested in anticipation of the slow recovery in the United States economy spreading to the rest of the world, writes Mr Andrew Rintoul, chairman, in his review.

Overseas holdings in commodity shares have been raised while at home the company has "easily-marked" holdings in financially-strong companies. In spite of reservations about Britain's prospects, equities are preferred to fixed-interest

Daily Mail Tst higher

In income of £694,000 (against £585,000) for the half year to September 30, net revenue after tax of the Daily Mail & General Trust increased from £339,000

Desmond Quigley

Mr R. W. Nicholson and Mr D. Fairbairn have been made directors of Shelvoke & Dwyer. Mr R. L. Higgin has been made chairman of Sunlock Anita and associated companies. His successor as managing director is Mr B. W. Ofield, formerly director of marketing.

Mr A. E. Church has been appointed managing director of National Engineering Brokers' Association, has been invited to join the Committee on Invisible Exports. This is the first direct representation of Lloyd's Brokers on that committee.

B. Elliott

Exports rescue machine tools

Judging by recent happenings, Britain's machine tool industry should be down. If not out. However, figures coming out of the industry do not appear to support the gloomy forecasts.

Indeed it is possible to discern a recovery in orders, indicating that the recession is bottoming out and bearing no resemblance to the severity of the 1971-1973 downturn.

The latest financial results from the sector come from the B. Elliott Group. There has been a substantial fall in pre-tax profits—in the region of a third—for the six months to the end of September, profits were still the second highest in the group's history after last year's record.

The machine tool industry has suffered, but the degree to which it was in danger appears to have been exaggerated, perhaps because of the focus of the country's best known firm in the sector—Alfred Herbert. In Elliott's case, volume during the six months declined, although external turnover showed a slight increase to £22.1m reflecting inflation. The order book was reduced from £20m in March to £17m in September, and is now, two months later, apparently at the same level.

Pre-tax profits fell from £2.02m to £1.36m. Traditionally the company takes a greater proportion of its profits in the second half and there seems every possibility that this will remain the case, although the company itself is suggesting that it will only match the first half.

The industry as a whole is diverse in its activities—Elliott, for example, is strong in factorage. But there is at least one common underlying theme: exports. It is estimated that between 50 and 60 per cent of the industry's output goes overseas, which helps to smooth out the more violent fluctuations in the cyclical pattern.

The 600 Group, which produced its interim figures last

Business appointments

NEB names director for North-west

Mr Arthur Ward has been appointed by the National Enterprise Board as a director for the North-west.

Lord Nelson of Stafford, chairman of the General Electric Co., has been elected to the board of the International Nickel Co.

Mr I. J. James has been made marketing manager of Frisglitters. Mr R. W. Hill becomes commercial development manager, and Mr N. A. Church distribution manager.

Mr Roy Hovey is to become product director of EIR International. He is at present managing director of EIR.

Mr John Bays has joined the board of Chetnam and Gloucester Building Society.

Mr M. B. Phillips, managing

DETROIT BANK & TRUST

Commercial Union Building
P.O. Box No. 151,
St. Helens, 1 Undershaft
London, EC3P 3ET, England
Telephone: 01-283 4851

S. CASKET (HOLDINGS) LTD.
(Clothing Manufacturers, Distributors and Retailers)

SUMMARY OF RESULTS		
Year ended 30 June	1975	1974
Sales (net)	10,753,055	6,661,781
Trading profit	1,143,392	970,840
Net profit before tax	906,374	805,802
Dividends net	73,919	69,269
Earnings per share	9.83p	8.46p

Addressing the Annual General Meeting in Manchester the Chairman Mr. Philip Casket made the following points:—

- ★ Sales up by 61%.
- ★ Net profit before tax up by 12.5%.
- ★ Record for the 13th successive year.
- ★ Record result also forecast for first six months of current year.

PRESIDENT STEYN GOLD MINING COMPANY LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

UNDERGROUND FIRE

Shareholders are referred to the company announcement published in the Press on 10th September, 1975 concerning the fire which broke out at the mine No. 4 shaft in August 1975.

It was originally hoped that access to the soiled-off area above the level would be regained before the end of October and that normal monthly production of 240,000 tons would be achieved in December 1975. This has not proved possible and it is now expected that access will be regained by the end of December, which means that the return to normal monthly production will be delayed until March 1976.

It is estimated that this will cause an overall production loss of some 270,000 tons despite the efforts to increase output from the area of the mine which are not affected by the fire. Of the production loss, 68,000 tons relate to the past financial year.

John Hambro
4th December, 1975.

CONTINUED PROGRESS

Points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Frank Webster, Year ended 30th June, 1975

- Pre-tax Profits exceed £1m for the first time.
- Dividend increased for 8th successive year.
- Cash resources very sound.
- Belcon Industrial Estate now fully let and rent reviews start next year.
- Group will be in a sound position to recommence growth when trading conditions improve.

ELECO HOLDINGS LIMITED

Wall Street

72392	PO Box 23, George St, Edinburgh, ED3 6JH	21.0	
72393	112, 113 and 114, Windover	21.0	
72394	Sea Life of Canada (UK) Ltd	21.0	
72395	1402, 1404, 1406, 1408, 1410, 1412, 1414, 1416, 1418, 1420, 1422, 1424, 1426, 1428, 1430, 1432, 1434, 1436, 1438, 1440, 1442, 1444, 1446, 1448, 1450, 1452, 1454, 1456, 1458, 1460, 1462, 1464, 1466, 1468, 1470, 1472, 1474, 1476, 1478, 1480, 1482, 1484, 1486, 1488, 1490, 1492, 1494, 1496, 1498, 1500, 1502, 1504, 1506, 1508, 1510, 1512, 1514, 1516, 1518, 1520, 1522, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1532, 1534, 1536, 1538, 1540, 1542, 1544, 1546, 1548, 1550, 1552, 1554, 1556, 1558, 1560, 1562, 1564, 1566, 1568, 1570, 1572, 1574, 1576, 1578, 1580, 1582, 1584, 1586, 1588, 1590, 1592, 1594, 1596, 1598, 1600, 1602, 1604, 1606, 1608, 1610, 1612, 1614, 1616, 1618, 1620, 1622, 1624, 1626, 1628, 1630, 1632, 1634, 1636, 1638, 1640, 1642, 1644, 1646, 1648, 1650, 1652, 1654, 1656, 1658, 1660, 1662, 1664, 1666, 1668, 1670, 1672, 1674, 1676, 1678, 1680, 1682, 1684, 1686, 1688, 1690, 1692, 1694, 1696, 1698, 1700, 1702, 1704, 1706, 1708, 1710, 1712, 1714, 1716, 1718, 1720, 1722, 1724, 1726, 1728, 1730, 1732, 1734, 1736, 1738, 1740, 1742, 1744, 1746, 1748, 1750, 1752, 1754, 1756, 1758, 1760, 1762, 1764, 1766, 1768, 1770, 1772, 1774, 1776, 1778, 1780, 1782, 1784, 1786, 1788, 1790, 1792, 1794, 1796, 1798, 1800, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1810, 1812, 1814, 1816, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1824, 1826, 1828, 1830, 1832, 1834, 1836, 1838, 1840, 1842, 1844, 1846, 1848, 1850, 1852, 1854, 1856, 1858, 1860, 1862, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876, 1878, 1880, 1882, 1884, 1886, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030, 2032, 2034, 2036, 2038, 2040, 2042, 2044, 2046, 2048, 2050, 2052, 2054, 2056, 2058, 2060, 2062, 2064, 2066, 2068, 2070, 2072, 2074, 2076, 2078, 2080, 2082, 2084, 2086, 2088, 2090, 2092, 2094, 2096, 2098, 2100, 2102, 2104, 2106, 2108, 2110, 2112, 2114, 2116, 2118, 2120, 2122, 2124, 2126, 2128, 2130, 2132, 2134, 2136, 2138, 2140, 2142, 2144, 2146, 2148, 2150, 2152, 2154, 2156, 2158, 2160, 2162, 2164, 2166, 2168, 2170, 2172, 2174, 2176, 2178, 2180, 2182, 2184, 2186, 2188, 2190, 2192, 2194, 2196, 2198, 2200, 2202, 2204, 2206, 2208, 2210, 2212, 2214, 2216, 2218, 2220, 2222, 2224, 2226, 2228, 2230, 2232, 2234, 2236, 2238, 2240, 2242, 2244, 2246, 2248, 2250, 2252, 2254, 2256, 2258, 2260, 2262, 2264, 2266, 2268, 2270, 2272, 2274, 2276, 2278, 2280, 2282, 2284, 2286, 2288, 2290, 2292, 2294, 2296, 2298, 2300, 2302, 2304, 2306, 2308, 2310, 2312, 2314, 2316, 2318, 2320, 2322, 2324, 2326, 2328, 2330, 2332, 2334, 2336, 2338, 2340, 2342, 2344, 2346, 2348, 2350, 2352, 2354, 2356, 2358, 2360, 2362, 2364, 2366, 2368, 2370, 2372, 2374, 2376, 2378, 2380, 2382, 2384, 2386, 2388, 2390, 2392, 2394, 2396, 2398, 2400, 2402, 2404, 2406, 2408, 2410, 2412, 2414, 2416, 2418, 2420, 2422, 2424, 2426, 2428, 2430, 2432, 2434, 2436, 2438, 2440, 2442, 2444, 2446, 2448, 2450, 2452, 2454, 2456, 2458, 2460, 2462, 2464, 2466, 2468, 2470, 2472, 2474, 2476, 2478, 2480, 2482, 2484, 2486, 2488, 2490, 2492, 2494, 2496, 2498, 2500, 2502, 2504, 2506, 2508, 2510, 2512, 2514, 2516, 2518, 2520, 2522, 2524, 2526, 2528, 2530, 2532, 2534, 2536, 2538, 2540, 2542, 2544, 2546, 2548, 2550, 2552, 2554, 2556, 2558, 2560, 2562, 2564, 2566, 2568, 2570, 2572, 2574, 2576, 2578, 2580, 2582, 2584, 2586, 2588, 2590, 2592, 2594, 2596, 2598, 2600, 2602, 2604, 2606, 2608, 2610, 2612, 2614, 2616, 2618, 2620, 2622, 2624, 2626, 2628, 2630, 2632, 2634, 2636, 2638, 2640, 2642, 2644, 2646, 2648, 2650, 2652, 2654, 2656, 2658, 2660, 2662, 2664, 2666, 2668, 2670, 2672, 2674, 2676, 2678, 2680, 2682, 2684, 2686, 2688, 2690, 2692, 2694, 2696, 2698, 2700, 2702, 2704, 2706		

HIGH & DRY

Really Dry Gin



Early gains reduced

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 1. Dealings End, Dec 11. § Contrango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 23.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

هيكذا من الاصل

Report December 3 1975

House of Lords

Connected sewers: no power to charge

by South West Water

of Wilberforce, Viscount

Lord Dilhorne, Lord

and Lord Edmund

of Lords, by a major-

ity of two, held that

Act, 1973, did not

empower a sewerage

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a person to be con-

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Appointments Vacant

GENERAL VACANCIES

CORPORATE/FINANCIAL

ACCOUNTS

Starting Salary £2,500

We are an international

financial consultancy

firm, established in

London, W.1, in a

prestigious building,

with a large staff,

and a wide range of

services. We are

looking for a person

to join our team,

to work in the

City of London,

on a permanent

basis. The person

must have a

degree in account-

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or the Institute

of Cost Account-

ants. The salary

will be £2,500

plus benefits.

If you are inter-

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We are an equal

opportunities

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Electronics Engineers

Hewlett-Packard: the world's leading manufacturer of electronic instrumentation is expanding into the Middle East. Challenging positions are now available in Iraq and Saudi Arabia for electronic engineers with at least 3 years experience in the field of electronic maintenance. The selected candidates will be responsible for the installation and maintenance of electronic, medical and chemical instrumentation as well as calculator and

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United States based international food company requires a home economist to work in the London area.

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A candidate must be prepared to travel and hold a current driving licence. Please apply in writing giving details of education, experience and salary requirements to: **MARIE KINDEL, c/o P.O. Box 100, L.A. (EUROPE) LTD., 371 PORTLAND RD., HOVE, SUSSEX BN1 3PS.**

COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT
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is a responsible position, in our Professional Division, at Wembley, and you need to have some secretarial experience (audio typing desirable) and be thoroughly bilingual in both French and German. Your work is concerned with translations, administration, and general organisation, offers future prospects for advancement.

Salary commensurate c. £2,750.
4 weeks' holiday.

Please apply: 01-902 8812

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WING OFFICER. The right candidate will have a sound secretarial background, a pleasant personality and the ability to undertake all secretarial duties. The company is based in West London and is concerned with the marketing of Audio-Tape products. A professional and administrative skills are essential.

Salary c. £2,500.

RESEARCH OFFICER. The right applicant will be 30+, used to controlling a good team of secretaries and a sound knowledge of the secretarial profession. The company is based in West London and is concerned with the marketing of Audio-Tape products. A professional and administrative skills are essential.

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Salary £3,000 and on

only to join a young fast

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BLE YOUNG LADY

to run London office

of French business

Must be experienced and

a good team leader.

Highly motivated and

able to travel abroad.

Salary £3,000 and on

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RENCH SPEAKING

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at £2,500 PLUS

an opportunity for

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to work in a busy

switchboard at the

office of a famous

international company.

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able to travel

abroad.

Salary £2,500 and on

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growing business.

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Usually we advertise

city jobs, but the city

can offer other alternatives.

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with some Ad Agency

experience. Salary

£2,500 to £3,000.

Salary

£2,500 to £3,000.

Salary

TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER

with fluent French and German

Buntingdon Research Centre is one of the largest indepen-

dent contract research organisations in the biological

sciences and has well-established contacts with scientific

institutes and other laboratories throughout the world.

We need a Translator/Interpreter to take responsibility for

the day-to-day translation of scientific and commercial

articles and business mail. Occasionally you will also provide

an informal interpreting service at meetings and for visitors

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You should be fluent in French and German, with several

years' experience in translation and interpreting, ideally in

scientific environment. Knowledge of Italian, Spanish, and

Portuguese, for example, would be an advantage.

Salary is attractive, and benefits include pension, subsidised

restaurant, and an active sports and social club. The loca-

tion itself has many advantages: the centre is situated in

pleasant countryside just outside Buntingdon.

For more details and an application form, please write to:

Nancy McCre, Buntingdon Research Centre, Bunting-

don PE18 6ES. Phone Buntingdon 890431.

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Salary

THE FAMILY PLANNING

ASSOCIATION

seeks an

EDUCATION OFFICER

to be responsible to the Director

for the promotion of the

educational programme in the

country and the administration

of the educational programme.

Salary £2,500 to £3,000.

Details and application form

from

Administration Manager,

F.P.A.,

27, 35 Mortimer St., London

W1A 4QU.

(entrance in Woodstock)

Salary

£2,500 to £3,000.

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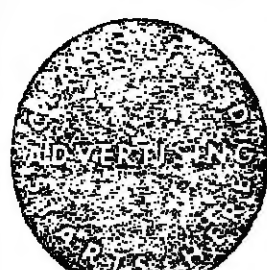
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DEATHS

JOHNSON—On December 2nd, at 10.30 a.m., after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Johnson, nee Jones, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

LEITCH—On December 2nd, at 10.30 a.m., after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Leitch, nee Jones, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

MACAULAY—At his home in East London, on December 2nd, 1975, after a long illness, Mr. James Macaulay, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

MORSE—On December 2nd, at 10.30 a.m., after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Morse, nee Jones, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

PEDLER—On December 2nd, at 10.30 a.m., after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Pedler, nee Jones, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

WRIGHT—On December 2nd, at 10.30 a.m., after a long illness, Mrs. Joan Wright, nee Jones, aged 78, of 10, The Grange, Wokingham, RG40 2AA. Buried at Wokingham on December 4th, 10.30 a.m.

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ALSO ON PAGE 27
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